Daily Report

Latin America

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Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-161 *19 August 1994*

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Central American Leaders Open Costa Rica Summit

PA1808213594 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1940 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Guacimo, 18 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The Central American presidents today gathered in Guacimo, located 120 km northeast of San Jose, Costa Rica, to open their 15th summit to coordinate efforts to achieve sustainable growth in the region with an emphasis on social justice. The first session of the regional summit, scheduled to officially end Saturday, got under way at 1320 local (1920 GMT) with the playing of the Costa Rican national anthem.

Those attending the 15th summit are the presidents of Guatemala, Ramiro de Leon Carpio; El Salvador, Armando Calderon Sol; Honduras, Carlos Roberto Reina; Nicaragua, Violeta Chamorro; Costa Rica, Jose Maria Figueres; and Panama, Guillermo Endara. Panamanian President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares and Belizean Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel are participating as observers.

This afternoon, the heads of state will hold their first working meeting at the installations of the School of Agriculture of the Humid Tropical Region (EARTH), the site of the summit meeting.

Guatemala's De Leon Addresses Summit

PA1908002294 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1925 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Speech by Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio to open the 15th Central American Presidential Summit in Guacimo, Costa Rica—live]

[Text] His Excellencies Central American Presidents; His Excellency Prime Minister of Belize; His Excellencies Ministers of State of the Central American region; His Excellencies Ambassadors; distinguished representatives of international organizations, distinguished officials from the governments of Central American countries; Gentlemen of the national and international press; Friends:

The presidents of the Central American countries have agreed to meet for the 15th time with the basic purpose of reiterating that the prosperity and greatness of Central America are our responsibility and that we must achieve these ends with creativity, responsibility, hard work, and especially an unyielding sense of regional unity.

We are fully convinced and aware of the fact that if we join our efforts to coordinate all activities in favor of all nations of the isthmus, our collective voice will gain strength and will be better heard to directly benefit our peoples, to whom we owe our best and most dedicated efforts.

I want to make it clear that we have not chosen this avenue to exclude anyone. We do not seek to form a set of nations separate from the clear reality of interdependent world economies. We are fundamentally working to develop the region, while placing special importance on fighting poverty, achieving productive modernization with social equality, and modernizing our institutions.

We are therefore committed to the objective of providing our people with the necessary conditions that will enable them to achieve integral development in an atmosphere of peace, democracy, and liberty. We are aware that this task poses an extraordinary challenge which must benefit both the present and future generations.

We Central Americans want to develop our society under the purview of sustainable development in order that the efforts we make today do not harm the opportunities of our children but, rather, increase them. We want to give our children a better Central America than the one we received. We have identified, within the context of our previous meetings, the steps we must follow to achieve our common objectives. We have decided to take these steps together.

We also have agreed to coordinate our points of view and positions in the area of our relations with third parties. This will enable use to maintain our positions and state them before the international community clearly and factually—namely, the legitimate expression of consensus among Central Americans, whose temporary representation has been given to us.

To accomplish such important and delicate commitments, we agreed to organize our activities through summits, which have permitted us to make important decisions for the common destiny of the region. We must follow up on these decisions.

Meanwhile, our collective voice must be heard through each of us. To this effect, we agreed to create a mechanism we have called the Pro Tempore Secretariat, which is filled by the government that hosted our previous meeting. At this time, on behalf of Guatemala, after having served in the role of Pro Tempore Secretariat for a 10-month period, I am honored to transfer this Secretariat to our host, Jose Maria Figueres Olsen, president of the Republic of Costa Rica, a man who is unquestionably committed to his country and to the Central American integration process.

We are certain of the urgent need to materialize actions in favor of integration—actions supported by the work of each president and his respective cabinet.

Finally, I wish to express, on behalf of you, my Central American brothers, and myself, the best for the continued success of the common purposes that inspire us, because today more than ever we are committed to making this much-desired integration project a reality. Thank you, very much. [applause]

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Panama's Perez Balladeres Rejects Integration

PA1808231694 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1906 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Guacimo (Costa Rica), 18 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Panama's President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares today ruled out the economic integration of his country with Central America, promoted by the current Panamanian Government of Guillermo Endara, because he believes such a union would harm all parties concerned.

Perez Balladares, who is attending 15th Central American Summit in Guacimo, Costa Rica, as an observer, said his government, which takes office on 1 September, will, however, maintain close relations with Central America.

These relations, he added, include "not staying away" from the summits that Central America has been holding since 1986, and he said Panama will continue working with Central America in social programs, in the struggle against drugs, and in coordinating some political actions.

"We do not want to pull away from Central America, but I believe that, when speaking solely in terms of economic matters, because we have a very different kind of service-based economy, this would not be to our advantage," the president-elect said in a news conference.

According to Perez Balladares, Central America has an agriculture-based economy—an economy with which Panama cannot compete. Moreover, Panama is not willing to put aside its service economy or drop the dollar, which is the currency that circulates in the country.

"Integration should be designed to help all of us win, not all of us lose," stressed the president-elect of Panama, the nation that Endara brought into the Central American summit framework in 1992.

Perez Balladeres Endorses Haiti Invasion

PA1808230194 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1940 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Guacimo (Costa Rica), 18 Aug (DPA)—Panamanian President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares today said he favors a military invasion of Haiti to restore democracy.

In statements to the media, Perez Balladares said in light of the fact that Haiti's military leaders insist on clinging to power, "it seems there will be no option other than to act in accordance with the guidelines of the United Nations." Three weeks ago, the United Nations gave a green light to the use of force to resolve the Haitian crisis.

According to the president-elect of Panama, a nation the United States invaded in December 1989 to depose General Manuel Antonio Noriega, a military operation in Haiti "would neutralize [resolveria] the bad example set by the military leaders who staged a coup d'etat against an established democracy."

He added that his administration will welcome Haitian refugees under the conditions that they stay for a maximum of six months and that they be housed on U.S. bases and remain under U.S. Army surveillance.

Perez Balladares arrived in Costa Rica today to attend the opening of the 15th Central American Presidential Summit.

Central America Declares Energy Crisis Emergency

PA1808170994 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0017 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] Managua, 15 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Central America declared a state of emergency due to the energy shortage caused by a prolonged drought. For that reason, it asked the international community for assistance to resolve the crisis, Nicaraguan energy experts have stated.

Emilio Rappaccioli, Nicaraguan Institute of Energy [INE] director, stated the declaration was issued over the weekend in El Salvador, during a meeting of the heads of the power companies of the area countries. He said they agreed to call on the international community to support the efforts of the national companies in view of this crisis, which is forcing the governments to ration energy with the subsequent adverse effect on productive activity.

Honduras and Nicaragua, the two nations facing the worst situation, have a combined energy shortage of close to 240 megawatts, which has forced the respective governments to implement severe rationing programs.

Guatemala, El Salvador, and Costa Rica, meanwhile, may face a similar situation in the near future, Rappaccioli warned at a news conference. The heads of the power companies agreed that the problems caused by nature are compounded by the shortage of resources to expand the installed capacity, the official added.

At the same time, they urged their governments to bring about regional interconnection and promote national plans to reach sustainable development, Rappaccioli noted.

"Energy projects require many millions of dollars," he said, adding that internal conflicts in several Central American countries prevented a strengthening of the energy sector.

The official said that the problem of the deficit in the generation of energy is similar all over Latin America, which requires $22 billion a year for this sector, an amount close to the sum international lending bodies disbursed from 1946 to 1993. In Nicaragua, the current daily energy rationing of four hours could be increased next October if the level of water in some dams improves.

When discussing the matter in Nicaragua, Rappaccioli said "the outlook has changed, which is why in September we

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could reduce rationing by half and eliminate it in October."

The official stated that if the level of waters in the northern Apanas dam, located 160 kilometers from Managua, continues to rise, the energy cut imposed on 27 June could drop from four hours to two hours a day.

The two hydroelectric plants located in Apanas can generate 100 megawatts, but the scarcity of rainfall lowered their production by at least 50 percent, which led to an initial energy rationing of eight hours a day.

According to INE figures, Nicaragua is now only generating 180 megawatts, whereas the demand is as high as 260 megawatts during peak hours.

In Honduras, where the daily 12-hour energy rationing that is in force is causing huge losses in production, it is believed the measure may be lifted before December.

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Cuba

Security Forces Allow Rafters To Leave 'Unimpeded'

PA1908001594 Paris AFP in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Cojimar, Cuba, 18 Aug (AFP)—Several Cubans hoping to reach the United States by sea sailed on rafts this afternoon from the Cuban coast near Cojimar, 15 km east of Havana, unimpeded by security forces, according to AFP witnesses on the scene.

Aboard those flimsy rafts, the Cubans took to the sea at 1600 (2000 GMT) in front of several hundred residents of this small fishing town and other Havana neighborhoods, who were drawn by rumors that the Cuban Coast Guard is not hampering their departure.

Indifferent to what was happening along the shore, the few policemen in the area did not try to prevent the departures, contrary to what they used to do before Fidel Castro warned on 5 August that Cuba will open its doors for an exodus if Washington does not stop encouraging illegal departures from the island.

According to eyewitnesses, other boat people left the coast near Cojimar without being hampered a few hours earlier. The same sources also said, however, that some boat people were picked up not far from the coast by a Cuban patrol boat. According to these same sources, a growing number of boat people left a few hours earlier without difficulty from Jaimanitas, west of Havana, as well as from Mariel, 40 km west of Havana.

On Thursday, neither the Cuban authorities nor the press commented on the illegal departures, which are taking place following a recent string of hijackings of boats from Havana to Florida.

Earlier in the day, Florida Governor Lawton Chiles said his state is facing "a true emergency situation" because of the arrival of hundreds of Cuban boat people. The U.S. Coast Guard reported picking up 1,158 people between Monday and Wednesday.

'Hundreds' of Rafters Flee on 'Flimsy' Boats

PA1908140494 Paris AFP in Spanish 0920 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 19 Aug (AFP)—Journalists today were able to confirm that in the past few hours, hundreds of Cubans who want to reach Florida's coasts left from the beaches located north of Havana, and neither the security forces nor the coast guard impeded their departure.

Many of these departures took place on the coast located east of the Cuban capital, mainly from the small fishing port of Cojimar, 15 kilometers from Havana, where dozens of flimsy boats were put to sea.

The number of departures has increased in Cojimar Bay since mid-afternoon on 18 August. By 0200 hours, "rafters" continued to leave the island, while hundreds of onlookers cheered them on as they hit the water.

AFP was able to confirm that no security forces were present to impede the departure of the would-be refugees.

By using flimsy boats sometimes put together with tires and old wood right there on the beach, entire families, including children and old people, were getting on the boats any way they could, with optimism and hope that at the end of their odyssey they would be in the United States.

Most of the rafters who were questioned pointed out that as soon as they left Cuban territorial waters, U.S. Navy officers would pick them up. The boat people believe they must take advantage of these particularly favorable times to leave the country, because the Cuban coast guard is no longer impeding the departures in keeping with President Fidel Castro's 5 August warning to the United States that he would not oppose the departure of "rafters" should Washington fail to stop encouraging them. This is how Fidel Castro is trying to make the United States change its immigration policies on Cubans.

Certain would-be refugees did not hesitate to go into the waters in tractor or truck tires assembled one on top of the other. Tens of people camping in Cojimar are saying they are waiting for the fast boats that must be coming from the United States to pick them up.

According to other reports, many other "rafters" are fleeing the island from the Jaimanitas-Santa Fe area, west of Havana, and from Mariel (40 kilometers west of Havana).

Cuban authorities and the local media yesterday failed to make any comment on the illegal departures, which were triggered after several boats were forcefully diverted from Havana toward Florida in the last few weeks.

Police Work To Ensure Ferry Passengers Unarmed

FL1908141594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 19 Aug 94

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] More than 1,500 passengers are being ferried between Luz Pier, Casablanca, and Regla daily more than a week after service was resumed, down from the more than 18,000 people and several hundred bicycles that were ferried before the service was shut down. Three boats are used to service passengers, with three more undergoing repairs at a shipyard.

Ferry authorities have taken certain measures, including selling boarding passes at local stands and authorizing employees to board once they present their identification. The National Special Police Brigade checks all passengers for blunt, sharp, or cutting objects, which are confiscated if found. No one—not even on-duty Interior

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Ministry or Revolutionary Armed Forces officers—is allowed to carry firearms on the crossing between La Luz Pier, Casablanca, and Regla. They are supposed to use overland transportation.

Ferry service will continue despite the drop in the number of passengers, as the service is considered stable due to all the security measures. The Habana Este bus service asks that the public use the ferry service so that it can turn a profit. The people of Havana City want the ferry service to ensure that security measures and quick and efficient service go hand-in-hand.

Radio Havana Reports New U.S. Immigration Policy

PA1908141794 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 19 Aug 94

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The United States has decided on a new immigration policy concerning the Cubans who reach the Florida coast, which consists of grouping them in special installations for an indefinite period of time and not giving them freedom 15 minutes after arrival as was being done up to now.

During a news conference held after the main officials responsible for U.S. security met in the White House, Minister of Justice [title as heard] Janet Reno added that the Cubans who have arrived in Florida in recent days and who have not been claimed by a relative or who do not have anyone who will take care of them will also be arrested.

According to a 1966 U.S. law, all Cubans who arrived illegally in the United States automatically obtained political asylum after completing a few formalities with the immigration services.

Florida Governor Lawton Chiles praised the decision of the top authorities of his country to confine the illegal Cuban immigrants in special installations.

Cuban President Fidel Castro last week warned that massive immigrations would be inevitable if the U.S. continued to practice its immigration policy of encouraging illegal departures while denying visas to most of the Cubans who seek them in the Washington's Interests Office in Havana.

Radio Reports U.S. Denies Fencing Team Visas

FL1908130694 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Aug 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] U.S. authorities have denied visas to the Cuban team that was to participate in the 20th Central American and Caribbean Fencing Championships in Puerto Rico. The Cuban team included six athletes, three representatives from the federation, one coach, and one referee. All documentation requesting visas was submitted properly and in due time at the U.S. Interest Section in Cuba.

GRANMA Editorial on U.S. Immigration Policy

FL1908123594 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1120 GMT 19 Aug 94

["They Lavished Gifts on the Ungrateful, So Why Are They Protesting Now?": Editorial by Nidia Diaz appearing in GRANMA newspaper on 19 August; from the "First Thing" program--read by announcer]

[Text] August 1994 will be a hot month for William Clinton's Democratic administration. The polls prove it: For the first time, an absolute majority of U.S. citizens—52 percent—disapprove of his actions. USA TODAY warns that Clinton's percentages after 19 months in office are the lowest of any President since Eisenhower. We may not be pleased about this for we know not whom it benefits, but it is reality. As if this were not enough, the week that is about to close has seen unprecedented numbers of Cuban refugees using their own means to seek their destiny on Florida shores.

President Clinton—who entered the White House with the votes of large groups of people but without a past commitment to the extreme-right Cuban groups in exile, the prodigal son of the Republican Party—should consider two serious problems. AFP has reported that high-ranking U.S. Government officials met at the White House on 18 August to review the rafter problem. EFE has reported that the White House has admitted the President's concern about the new flow of Cubans. White House Spokesperson Dee Dee Myers has said that Washington is studying policy to handle this situation but, for the time being, refuses to provide further details.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Janet Reno asked the Cubans to stop risking their lives by taking to the sea in small and unsafe craft. Reno's position is obviously fragile: She then asserted that, for the time being, Washington sees no reason to change its current migration policy concerning Cuba. That is the whole issue: an old, hostile, and obtuse migration policy whose pillars are based on an ideological and political dispute with the Cuban Revolution which Washington refuses to settle. A summary of the failure of its aggressions against Cuba in those 35 years would be endless. We, the Cubans, know them well.

However, obfuscated by his own arrogance since its much-liked Domino Principle—according to which Castro's regime should fall after Eastern Europe and the USSR—failed in Cuba, they favored one of their most worn out weapons against the Revolution, meaning the migration. They have spent millions in resources over the last four years to encourage this policy and hired fans of their publicity have tirelessly encouraged, as never before, a large-scale illegal departure of Cubans to Florida. They were helped by the problems currently

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faced by the Cuban economy, essentially due to the loss of their traditional markets, the absence of international credits, and a reinforcement of the blockade against the island.

The goal was to discredit the Revolution, foster the image of widespread discontent, and, if the case may be, have a letter of introduction to justify any act of interference from abroad against the Revolution. Time and again they disregarded Havana's warnings that this policy of encouraging maritime piracy and illegal departures could boomerang for the United States, just like the airplane hijackings, and that Cuban Border Guard Troops could become the guardians of that country's coats. The most recent of those warnings was personally issued by Fidel when, in reply to accusations from the United States concerning an alarming exodus of Cubans, he reminded them: We cannot be held responsible for this.

The main instrument of the policy with which they compel a large-scale migration is the criminal economic blockade they maintain against our country and the attempt to defeat our people through hunger and disease. Statistics prove it: A poll conducted by the Center of Political Alternatives at the University of Havana with over 100 persons who tried to illegally travel to the United States during 1993 shows 93 percent of them did it to alleviate their family's economic situation. Despite their interest in immigrating, 50.3 percent of those persons—when asked about the type of society in which they would like to live—answered: Cuba before the special period or Cuba during the 1980s.

International news agencies reported on 18 August that Florida Governor Lawton Chiles has asked President William Clinton to declare a state of immigration emergency to face the flow of Cubans which, in this week alone, has broken arrival records on that state's coasts. It is clear Washington cannot blame us if Cuban citizens—using their own means and without acts of violence—have embarked on a trip to the promised land. Warren Christopher said, barely a few days ago, they would be quite welcome. Now, observing the U.S. authorities' concern, we can see how unfair and cynical the slander against Cuba was every time an incident occurred and how demented and absurd the policy of encouraging illegal departures was.

In this case, the only thing they can blame us for is that—just as it was published in AREITO magazine, which circulates in Miami—over 90 percent of those who migrate have completed their 6th grade, 80 percent finished high school, and 45.6 percent are prepared to carry out technical-professional activities—thus becoming a competitive force in the complicated job market in that opulent country. This is not a pleasant situation for the rest of the national minorities that live in that merciless Babel.

They lavished gifts on the ungrateful, so why are they protesting now?

[Station then plays two recorded excerpts. One is Fidel Castro stating: "If they opt for threats and fear, they will run up against the Cuban people. There is no doubt about that." The other recording features a female who plays a guitar and repeats the same line time and again: "I will die like I have lived..."]

GRANMA Writes Article on U.S. Immigration Policy

PA1908145094 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 19 Aug 94

[From the "Information Service" newscast]

[Text] The United States has decided on a new immigration policy concerning the Cubans who reach the Florida coasts, which consists of grouping them in special installations for an indefinite period of time and not giving them freedom 15 minutes after arrival as it was being done up to now.

During a news conference held after the main officials responsible for U.S. security met in the White House, Minister of Justice [title as heard] Janet Reno added that the Cubans who had arrived in Florida in recent days and have not been claimed by a relative or do not have anyone who will take care of them will also be arrested.

Cuban President Fidel Castro warned last week massive immigration would be inevitable if the U.S. immigration policy of encouraging illegal departures while denying visas to most of the Cubans who seek them in Washington's Interests Office in Havana continued in effect.

An article published today in the daily GRANMA states Washington cannot blame Cuba, because Cuban citizens, seeking their own means and without staging violent actions, have embarked toward the United States. GRANMA recalls that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said a few days ago they would be welcomed.

GRANMA notes when one observes the current concerns of the U.S. authorities over the flow of immigration, one realizes how unjust the slanders against Cuba were and how absurd the policy of stimulating the illegal departures is.

Radio: U.S. 'Disregarded' Castro on Refugees

PA1908011894 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Aug 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Florida Governor Lawton Chiles today declared a state of emergency in that U.S. state following an increase in the arrival of Cubans, who are leaving the island illegally. Chiles mobilized seven state agencies, including the National Guard, and requested emergency federal economic assistance to deal with an eventual mass Cuban immigration similar to the one that took place in 1980.

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Cuban President Fidel Castro warned last week that a mass emigration of Cubans would be unavoidable if the United States continues with its immigration policy to encourage illegal departures from the island. The United States also denies visas to most of the Cubans who visit the U.S. Interests Section in Havana.

Fidel Castro said this type of immigration is also encouraged by the so-called Cuban Adjustment Law, which grants Cuban citizens who arrive in the United States illegally privileges that are not given to nationals of any other country. The Cuban leader called on the United States to seek serious and immediate solutions to the problems of mass immigration—problems mainly caused by the criminal economic blockade imposed on Cuba and Washington's attempt to subdue our people through hunger and sickness.

The United States has not only has disregarded this call, but, according to top government officials, it has reiterated there will be no changes in its policy toward the Cubans who leave the island illegally, some even by hijacking boats and murdering public security officials.

Miami-Based Reporter Interviewed on Refugees

PA1908023994 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Miami-based reporter identified as Castellon by International News Room reporter Juan Jose Beiga Pena in Havana on 18 August; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast—live or recorded]

[Text] [Castellon] This morning, Florida Governor Lawton Chiles finally declared a state of emergency at a news conference in Key West. He asked the Federal Government to help Florida face this growing wave of illegal immigrants from Cuba. It has been estimated that this is the largest number of people arriving from Cuba since the Mariel boatlift in 1980.

Here, there are reports citing the governor saying there are hundreds of people—perhaps thousands—are crowded along Cuba's coasts waiting to cross the Straits of Florida.

The governor also stressed that Cuban authorities have not attempted to prevent Cubans from leaving the island, adding there is a real emergency in the Straits of Florida. It should be noted that the state of Florida has filed a lawsuit against the Federal Government, demanding payment of several million dollars for expenses incurred while housing immigrants during the Mariel boatlift.

[Beiga Pena] Castellon, so far, can you describe how the arrival of these refugees has affected the Cuban-born residents in Miami?

[Castellon] Well, this is a curious situation. Traditionally, the principal leaders of the anti-Castro groups in south Florida have always promoted illegal departures from Cuba, because they were used for propaganda purposes. They said this demonstrated the desperation—and here, I am citing in general terms the thesis they have always espoused—of a people. Every time someone arrived from Cuba illegally, he was invariably termed an individual searching for the land of liberty.

The interesting thing in this case is that they have now decided to follow, and this is not surprising, the guidelines set by U.S. authorities—guidelines that reject a possible exodus of Cubans. There is a notable difference, because in this case what they pretend or what they argue is that people in Cuba must not leave, despite the fact that they have a cushy mattress to ensure an easy landing here. They say people should not leave and should stay on the island to increase internal pressure and to push for the collapse of the Cuban Government.

[Beiga Pena] That is correct, because, for the past two days, Cubans there have not been as calm as we have been here in Havana.

[Castellon] That is true. Here, the situation they portray of the island... [pauses] based on an indisputable reality, they are saying the number of Cubans picked up in the Straits of Florida is indeed increasing. Undoubtedly, there is a notable increase in the number of people leaving the island on boats that do not offer a minimum of navigational safety. It has been reported that some passengers on rafts and small boats making the trek have fallen into the sea and have been eaten by sharks. This is regrettable, because no one in his right mind should take such risks.

Nevertheless, one cannot ignore the fact that there may be people in Cuba who do not have suitable resources to face the economic crisis. This is not widespread, however; the Cuban population is not taking to the sea en bloc.

It also should not be forgotten that in the United States there is an organized network of privileges—so to speak—offered exclusively to Cubans when they arrive on U.S. territory, regardless of whether they arrive via a third country legally or illegally. They do not have to justify that they are victims of political persecution or that they were to become victims. It is not even important if, in order to achieve their objective of reaching U.S. shores, they have engaged in violent actions—actions that include murder. This is a situation that may prompt some people who may be desperate to sail a few miles on anything that floats. They may have the idea that there will be a deployment of boats and aircraft awaiting them to welcome them, as is customary.

[Beiga Pena] Thank you very much, Castellon, for these words to Radio Havana Cuba.

Refugees Reconfirm Politics Reason for Departure

FL1908135094 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 18 Aug 94

[From the "Caribbean Evening News" program]

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[Text] A group of Cubans recently hijacked a fishing boat in their quest to reach Miami. On their way, they began having difficulties and landed in Jamaica. The Cubans landed on the Half Moon Hotel Beach on Jamaica's north coast. Irwin Lewis has that story:

[Begin recording] [Lewis] Yes, the economic situation is bad, the Cubans all agree, though they say the fundamental reason why they fled their country is because of the political situation.

[Unidentified speaker in Spanish with superimposed translation into English] The politics! The politics! We don't like communism! The politics are very nasty, very bad, a lot of oppression. We are persecuted in Cuba. There are no human rights.

[Lewis] All of the Cubans here are highly qualified—among them are a general practitioner, a cardiologist, an economist, a medical student—there's even a statistician—though they say there's not much employment in Cuba, not so well because of a lack of jobs but because everyone opposed to the Cuban Government risks being killed. Pastor Quezada is a statistician, though he says he has been out of work for almost 14 years, punishment for having tried to leave Cuba in 1980. Alberto Mas, the cardiologist, says the Castro regime lies to the world about Cuba's medical capacity.

[Mas in Spanish with superimposed translation into English] In Cuba, there is no medicine, no form of medicine. We, the doctors, prescribe medication, but when the people go to the pharmacy, there's none available.

[Lewis] He gives the example of an epileptic patient, who went to a hospital and could not get any medication, not even sedatives. He said he had to call the hospital administrator before he would give him some medication and not before the patient had suffered severe brain damange. He adds that they (?encounter) other such cases. None of the Cubans has requested refugee status in Jamaica. None of them wants to return to Cuba. They say they are tired of living the lies of communism.

[Unidentified speaker in Spanish with superimposed translation into English] That's why we decided to leave Cuba from the port (?that Castro wanted), to show that through that port barbarism entered Cuba and by that port those who do not believe in communism have left.

[Lewis] The Cubans now wish to go to Miami to join families and friends who left Cuba some time ago. It's now up to the United States authorities to decide what their fate will be. [end recording]

Problems in Prosecuting Immigration Traffickers Discussed

FL1808232694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Aug 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] The Spanish news agency EFE has stated that the U.S. authorities' stern warnings to penalize those participating in the illegal traffic of Cubans to the United States is in contrast to a different reality in U.S. courts. EFE cited legal experts on the subject.

(Bruce Week), a law professor at Miami University, affirms that the threat by the Clinton administration is very serious. However, it is very difficult to carry out those threats. A former prosecutor described as lost the legal cases related to Cuban immigrants that have been brought before South Florida courts.

A group of lawyers specializing in international and immigration law have explained the obstacles encountered by prosecutors when trying to turn accusations into verdicts.

In the first place, the experts point to the lack of evidence in most cases. The prosecutors have difficulty getting the facts about events on Cuban shores, while the people charged with illegally picking up undocumented Cubans usually claim that the refugees were rafters.

Legal experts add that the subject of jurisdiction is another obstacle, and doubt that U.S. prosecutors have enough authority to sue people charged on Cuban territory. The case of Leonel Macias Gonzalez, charged in Cuba with the murder of Lieutenant Roberto Aguilar Reyes, was cited as an example. The Federal Prosecutor's Office in Miami, which will decide if Macias violated U.S. law, has stated that the case is being studied, without saying whether the accused will be transferred to another jurisdiction, or whether he will be formally charged.

Lawyers add that the issue of sympathy is also an important factor, given the large number of Cubans living in South Florida. However, lawyers stated that the judicial cases are important for showing firmness, and helping to dissuade others, despite the difficulties in reaching verdicts.

Guantanamo Riots, Injured U.S. Soldiers Reported

FL1908012894 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Aug 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Four U.S. soldiers were injured during the riots that took place today at the U.S. Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, where approximately 15,000 Haitian refugees are being held. This information was released by the Pentagon, which on 17 August announced its plans to improve living conditions for the Haitian refugees.

Havana Reports Haitians Leaving Guantanamo

FL1908014294 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] On 17 August, a group of 240 Haitian refugees who were being held at the U.S. Guantanamo Bay Naval

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Base, returned voluntarily to Haiti. Diplomatic sources in Port-au-Prince said the Haitians chose to return after the United States refused to give them political asylum. On 16 August, another 400 Haitians were repatriated by the U.S. Coast Guard. The Haitians stated that they preferred to return to Haiti rather than staying in Guantanamo.

Since 13 August, Guantanamo has been the scene of violent confrontations between the Haitian refugees and U.S. military police.

Robaina Leaves 18 Aug for Latin America Tour

Against Accepting U.S. Solutions

PA1808194094 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 18 Aug (PL)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina stated here today that the requisites for normalizing relations with the United States are not bureaucratic or immigration solutions.

In statements to PRENSA LATINA, before leaving on a Latin American tour, Robaina said his country does not accept bureaucratic, mediocre, or superficial solutions from the United States, because it will not alleviate the blockade or economic pressures it has imposed on the island.

The immigration issue, he argued, is currently abnormal. Today it cannot be viewed separately from the root issue that created the difficulties between Cuba and the United States, that is the blockade.

He explained that the United States has tried to show the world that with certain technical or immigration adjustments, this situation could be normalized. That, however, is impossible because such a path, he noted, will not attenuate the U.S. blockade that has cost Cuba over $40 billion in the past three decades. In his opinion, any process to normalize relations, particularly with the United States, must be carried out on an equal footing between the parties involved.

As long as they do not want to listen to Cuba and want to impose conditions before they listen, the country is not willing to discuss normalizing relations with the United States, he noted.

He insisted that problems betwen Havana and Washington are quite clear. He ruled out, therefore, the necessity of having mediators resolve them.

The Cuban foreign minister said recent editorials published by the U.S. press against the blockade policy reflect the new reality that exists in the country, where many sensible persons realize that that policy has failed.

Over the past weeks, THE NEW YORK TIMES and WASHINGTON POST broached in their respective editorials the need to change U.S. policy toward the island.

Finally, Robaina said Cuba is ready to receive ordinary U.S. citizens and congressmen, provided they come to learn about the country and not to inspect it or to take back proposals.

Robaina left today for Panama, where he will make a short stop before going on to Ecuador, the first leg of his Latin American tour, which will also take him to Chile, Bolivia, and Brazil.

Cited on OAS, Ties With Chile, Mexico

PA1808223294 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1836 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 18 Aug (PL)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, when discussing Cuba's reintegration into America, says Cuba's rejoining the OAS is not a priority for his government.

The OAS is an institution from which we were expelled under conditions we considered unfair and that remain unfair, and I do not think they have done much that should prompt us to change our opinion, he told PRENSA LATINA.

Before leaving on a tour of several Latin American nations, Robaina said there are many issues the OAS still has to resolve. This is an issue that, in his opinion, should first be taken up by the member-nations.

He stressed that to join this organization, Cuba would not accept conditions that "endanger our sovereignty, our independence, and the capacity to speak our mind."

Nevertheless, he noted, Cuba is not establishing any new conditions, because the position it maintained when it was expelled from the OAS (1962) has not changed whatsoever.

When questioned on his visit to Bolivia, Robaina said it will open a number of opportunities for relations between the two nations, and he added that during his stay in Bolivia he intends to sign cooperation and exchange agreements in the areas of health, education, sports, and culture, among others.

The foreign minister disclosed he is carrying a letter from Cuban President Fidel Castro to his Brazilian colleague Itamar Franco; the letter is being sent within the context of the close ties between Havana and Brasilia.

In terms of relations with Brazil, Robaina stressed that currently there are active bilateral exchanges at the Foreign Ministry level and in the area of economics—for example, in pharmaceuticals. His visit, he remarked, will give continuity to the dialogue held in this capital with his colleague Cello Amorin.

On his trip to Chile, he said his agenda does not include the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with this

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South American nation. He assured, however, that currently there are economic and commercial ties "that go much further than the diplomatic ties that could be established."

Both nations broke diplomatic relations in 1973; however, ties were reestablished at the consular and trade level in mid-1991 at the First Ibero-American Summit in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Robaina said such decisions should be self-evident, but he added that the Cubans are not the ones who have the final say.

In his opinion, Chile's possible incorporation into the NAFTA agreement between the United States, Mexico, and Canada should not adversely affect its ties with the island.

In this regard, he cited the case of Mexico as an example, because its integration into NAFTA "neither in fact nor in theory" has affected its relations with Cuba.

After noting that the island respects the decision to join any regional integration mechanism, Robaina said his country has become a "land of opportunity, and the businessmen of this hemisphere have realized that it is possible to invest here."

To Hold Meeting in Panama En Route

PA1808151394 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1236 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 18 Aug (PL)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina today will make a technical stopover in Panama on his way to Ecuador, the first part of his tour through Latin American countries that will include Chile, Bolivia, and Brazil.

Robaina told PRENSA LATINA that the Panamanian Foreign Ministry proposed to use the hours he will be in transit in Panama to hold a meeting at the Foreign Ministry and with businessmen.

Robaina reported that Cuba has been invited to participate in the swearing-in ceremony for the new president of Panama, a country with which Cuba holds at this moment fluid relations.

The Cuban foreign minister is traveling in the company of Arnaldo Molina, from the Latin America Department of the Cuban Foregin Ministry, and of Foreign Ministry Office Chief Tomas Lorenzo.

Arrives in Panama, Meets Businessmen

FL1808181494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Aug 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez today began a busy working tour of Latin America that will take him to Ecuador, Chile, Bolivia, Brazil, and Panama. Roberto Cavada Barreras talked with Robaina shortly before his departure early this morning:

[Begin recording] [Cavada] Among other things, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina referred to yesterday's statements by Diego Paredes, his Ecuadoran counterpart, who told the media that Quito could participate as a negotiator in the dispute between Havana and Washington.

[Robaina] We appreciate any mediation but, I insist, current problems between Cuba and the United States are clear enough so no mediators are needed to clarify things any further. I think...[pauses] I welcome the interest everyone may have in this concern, but I believe it is important for this interest to be accompanied by something we consider essential, meaning no process for the normalization of relations, particularly with the United States, can include anything that may put us in a disadvantageous position. That is the only condition the country establishes.

Therefore, I do not believe it is necessary to issue many types of warnings. I believe this mediation should not only be offered to the Cuban side. Above all, it must be offered to the U.S. side so the stipulations they want to impose concerning a dialogue or a meeting...[pauses] It should be clear that, as long as those stipulations exist, there is no possibility.

[Cavada] Minister, some time ago the Cuban Government invited the UNHCR to travel to Havana. Has he accepted the invitaton? What is the outlook on a possible visit by UNHCR official Ayala?

[Robaina] Yes, we have received a reply. It was confirmed by Ayala, with whom we maintain relations, and we have stated our willingness to work and make that visit possible. We have received the confirmation and acceptance for the same, and we are working on this so it may be carried out during the second half of September.

Anyone who assumes a responsibility as Ayala has done will be interested in knowing what is being done in this country in the human rights sector. I think that now-...[pauses] We are now coordinating preparations for that visit, and you will be able to get all the details in conection with the exact date and agenda.

[Cavada] Foreign Minister, various news agencies have recently speculated about a possible establishment of relations between Israel and Cuba. Is there any truth to this? Have the two sides talked about this?

[Robaina] There is nothing to indicate that we are doing this. Certain attempts have perhaps been made to get to know each other better and try to see if relations can or cannot be established from the commercial viewpoint. However, there is nothing to indicate we are currently in a condition to establish diplomatic relations. I repeat, many things have to be straightened along the road, so, I repeat, the rest is mere speculation. [end recording]

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[Radio Rebelde carries the following report by Orlando Oramas, from Panama City, during the same newscast: "Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, who is on a working stopover to Panama City, analyzed here the outlook of trade between Cuba and the isthmian nation during a meeting with Panamanian business leaders. Robaina was welcomed at Tocumen International Airport by Acting Foreign Minister Carlos Cordero. He then visited the Foreign Ministry. The Cuban foreign minister was later interviewed by NOTIMEX. The head of our diplomacy met afterward with prominent Panamanian business leaders, with whom he analyzed the possible ways to increase economic ties and trade between the two nations. The meeting was attended by Jaime Ford, manager of the Colon Free Zone; Ricardo Duran, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries; and Ricardo Aleman, president of the committee in charge of organizing EXPOCOMER 94, the most important trade fair in Panama. This afternoon Robaina will tour the canal zone, invited by the Panamanian Foreign Ministry, and will immediately leave for Ecuador, where he will begin a four-day official visit."]

Interviewed on Emigration, U.S. Policies

PA1908014994 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Aug 94

[By Sandra Gonzalez]

[Text] Panama City, 18 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said here today that the Cuban migratory phenomenon is different from those in all other nations, and he denied that he is surprised by the number of citizens who are abandoning the Caribbean island.

"The Cuban migratory phenomenon is different from those in all other nations because it is highly politicized and manipulated from abroad," Robaina said in an exclusive interview with NOTIMEX.

The official arrived at Tocumen International Airport in Panama City this afternoon to start a 22-day tour of Ecuador, Chile, Bolivia, Brazil, Panama, and Costa Rica.

"They often ask about people leaving Cuba, but they seldom ask about the Haitians and Mexicans who cross the border night after night," said Robaina, who will meet today with local businessmen and officials of the Panamanian Ministry of Foreign Relations.

"What is happening in Cuba is not purely a migratory phenomenon that they have tried to politicize and that actually seeks to strangle the population and a project through economic means, through food and diseases, to provoke an explosion from within," he added. [sentence as received]

Robaina assured that his country's government will not let foreign pressure promote violent acts on the island or allow it to become a pretext for future intervention, because "we are the ones who impose order in the country."

The former leader of Cuba's Socialist youths added that the Cuban Government will never allow ships, embassies, or missions to become legitimate vehicles for leaving the island.

Robaina denied that the President Fidel Castro's government is preventing Cubans from leaving the country, and he recalled that the government has given the U.S. Interests Section in Havana permission to grant up to 20,000 visas per year to Cubans. He pointed out, however, that 3,000 is the largest number of visas the United States has granted.

He regretted that the U.S. coasts are open only to Cuban citizens arriving illegally while they are closed to Haitians.

"I think this is discriminatory, unjust, and inhuman, and this is what we will not accept," Robaina noted.

The foreign minister deplored the way in which the media in general reports developments in his country and the way in which "that manipulation" has prompted certain people "to pose for one last picture with us, because we are about to disappear."

Just hours before touring the Panama Canal, Robaina said, "I do not ask you to share our view, I only ask that our view be taken into account when Cuba is analyzed."

Although he admitted that the situation on the island is tense, he pointed out that one must take into account with whom Cuba is being compared, because the situation of Cubans is criticized in the world while the extreme poverty afflicting thousands of Latin Americans is overlooked.

He said: "They talk a great deal about Cuba's special period; they talk much a great deal about the lack of variety on our tables. It is true that there is a lack of variety on our tables, but millions of Latin Americans lack tables."

Robaina added: "It is not that they lack variety, they do not even have a table with a little variety."

The diplomat will head for Ecuador this afternoon, where he will formally open a tour of six Latin American countries to discuss investment possibilities on the island and to promote commercial exchanges. Robaina will return to Panama to participate in the inauguration of President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares on 1 September.

Uruguayan Envoy Urges Negotiations With U.S.

FL1908001994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Aug 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

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[Text] On 25 August, Cuba will salute the Oriental Republic of Uruguay's 169th independence anniversary. In light of this upcoming event, Uruguay's ambassador to Cuba, Alberto Boss Rubio, made the following statements to reporter Jesus Diaz Loyola, from Radio Progreso:

[Begin recording] [Boss] We think the Cuban people deserve better than being in the midst of these tremendous difficulties and these grim times that seem to take place one after the other, day after day. We are very much amazed by events that seem to be orchestrated. We sincerely believe that these difficult times will be overcome. We believe that the call made to maintain the calm should be followed. This call has been made by authorities and all of the Cuban community, so that these difficult times can be overcome. We do not negate the right to live better....

[Diaz] The United States wants to impose an immigration policy on Cuba. However, Cuba has demanded its own rights. What is your opinion, Mr. Ambassador?

[Boss] I believe that the time has come for the negotiating table to be used. Both sides should sit and seriously dialogue, with dignity, with honesty, and at a high level. They should try to solve a problem pertaining as much to one as to the other. We honestly believe that Cuba should maintain its position, as it has done, but try to find a permanent solution to this problem through negotiation and dialogue .

[Diaz] Therefore, is it fair that we should have to beg in every direction so that those who continue to bother us, stop doing so?

[Boss] Yes, I believe that there are too many people worried about the negative things in Cuba. I believe that there are many more people who highlight what is positive. Let us therefore worry more about those who are on your side. Let the others find out that things are different here—that here people are all heart. [end recording]

Granma First Secretary Dismissed, Replaced by Balaguer

FL1908004794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] At the request of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], the provincial plenum of the PCC in Granma agreed to dismiss Comrade Alfredo Enriquez Pina from his post as first secretary. Enriquez will now be assigned other responsibilities. The plenum acknowledged Enriquez's efforts during the three and a half years at the helm of the party in Granma Province, as well as his status as a cadre of the Revolution.

Comrade Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera has been temporarily appointed to replace Enriquez as head of the provincial plenum. A work committee headed by Politburo members Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee of the PCC, Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, Julian Rizo, Esteban Lazo, Division General Julio Casas Regueiro, Alfredo Jordan, and Jose Ramon Balaguer chaired this special plenum of the Provincial Committee in Granma.

Commentator Praises Ability To Work, Face 'Antagonists'

FL1808143794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Commentary by Fernando Davalos; from the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] The Jussara episode at Mariel Bay is the latest in a series of attempts to disorient our country and draw it from the path of economic recovery. The enemy is obsessed with disturbing internal order in an effort to undermine national tranquility, as many Cubans, particularly in Havana, have seen over the last few days. We are now being told that we must keep the country on course and that the workers and the people must carry out productive and social tasks while confronting the antagonists.

Interestingly enough, decisive economic issues remained top priority during the days of heightened alert and confrontation.

Of course, it was shown during those complicated days that, as was mentioned in a recent "Straight Talk" program, Havana is not Cuba. Havana is the site of Cuba's largest oil refinery, which has been completely restored in an effort described as heroic. Its technicians and operators completed the task on time—13 August, Fidel's birthday—and well enough that this industry's reputation could be restored.

In Ciego de Avila, Pina oil workers met their annual oil extraction goal on the same day so that the commander in chief could hear even more good news. Cabaiguan uses the high quality crude to produce special oils of great national economic importance.

In Santiago de Cuba, several social projects, houses, and other services were inaugurated. Santiago Hotel hard currency revenues were very impressive, totalling $6 million or what was obtained during all of last year. This news also arrived on 13 August, along with news of their determination to reach $9-10 million by year's end.

In Guantanamo and many other places, projects were completed to liven up the politically combative atmosphere needed to get through these days.

Anyone who does not know Cubans very well would be amazed at this apparent contrast between being alert and combative and working hard. The country did not neglect its responsibilities, despite being mobilized to face the antagonists.

This is another experience gained from the past few days. This clearly shows how we must work and live in peace

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and with firmness and optimism; how we must be well organized and united; how we must focus on other productive, strategic areas, such as food production; and how we must continue elevating social efficiency and working on programs to restructure our internal finances.

We must do all this with our eyes, hearts, and arms but without neglecting our vigilance.

Santa Clara TV Carries Talk on Media Openness

FL1808192094 Santa Clara Cubanacan TV Television in Spanish 2223 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Discussion between unidentified reporters and speakers following rebroadcast of the film "Mankind's Reason" on 17 August; place not given; from the "On Time" program; monitored in progress; video shows a small crowd of people seated around a television set, watching rafters at sea—recorded]

[Text] [First speaker]...the film proves that lack of information... [pauses] Better yet, disinformation on what's really happening there and here is one of the main reasons.

[Second speaker] The national media could explain what is really happening.

[Third speaker] You could hear people on the truck say that this or that artist defected. You never even hear about that from Cuban television or radio. The people should be informed better. You will never hear the state confirm whether an athlete has defected or not. The people should be informed better. Any time something happens, the people should be told and not have to wait to hear about it on Radio Marti or the like. Just say it.

[Radio Marti jingle and newscast excerpt are then played: "Five Cubans aboard a motored raft were rescued by a U.S. fishing vessel and later turned over to the..."]

[Fourth speaker] Some of its news is true, and some of it is lies. They start with the truth and follow up with lies. People hear the first report, which is true, and believe that the second report is also true. However, that is not the case.

[Fifth speaker] I might be a regular listener of Radio Marti, which aims to fight Cuba, but I can still be critical and dismiss their gibberish if I have both feet on the ground.

[Sixth speaker] I may be well trained ideologically and know that their news will not affect me, but I could still become a mouthpiece for that news. That is also their goal.

[Seventh speaker] We must begin demanding and demonstrating to the people that we must work. One of the essential principles of socialism is: He who does not work does not eat.

[Eighth speaker] That is true. However, there are people who do not want to work. Those who live here and do not work or are lazy may live poorly, but they do not die of hunger.

[Reporter] Would you like to go to the United States?

[Ninth speaker] No way, not even to visit.

[Tenth speaker] Perhaps to visit to find out if it is like some people think.

[Eleventh speaker] There is nothing for me there.

[Twelfth speaker] I want to visit the United States about as much as I want to visit Egypt.

[Thirteenth speaker] I would not say that I do not want to go to the United States. I would like to visit. There are many good and interesting things to see.

[Fourteenth speaker] I cannot imagine going anywhere, not even the moon. Besides, someone has to maintain the Revolution.

[Reporter] You are holding a passport to go to the United States to visit relatives. Some people have gone to visit and have stayed. Might you go to stay in the United States?

[Fifteenth speaker] Me?! Stay there?! No way! I knew the anguish of missing my fatherland while I was a student in the United States. I missed my pretty Cuba so! Fuck, I wouldn't stay! Only fools, morons stay.

[Sixteenth speaker] Cuban television and radio producers can make films like this.

[Seventeenth speaker] I had already seen it on television. It was not announced that it would be broadcast nor had it been rebroadcast. It was only shown once.

[Eighteenth speaker] The film clearly defines our reality for those abroad and their reality for us.

[Reporter] Can Cuban television producers make such a film?

[Nineteenth speaker] That is quite a question. I should ask you, I should ask you, I should ask you [repeats three times]: Why is this not done? [video shows closing credits as the recorded discussion ends]

[The "On Time" anchorwoman follows the recorded discussion: "We just saw 'Mankind's Reason,' which Telecubanacan first broadcast on 12 August. We rebroadcast it this afternoon because many people did not get to see it. The film was made by comrades of the Higher Art Institute of Holguin and Tele Cristal Television."]

Tourism Employment Chief on Personnel Changes

FL1808135194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Report by Jose Artiaga; from the "Exclusive" program]

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[Text] Cubanacan's employment office has managed this hotel chain's personnel roster effectively. Edmundo Miranda, general manager of the employment office in Santiago de Cuba, comments:

[Begin recording] We have been establishing rigorous controls, while cutting staff and increasing sales. Although we had a work force of about 3,200, we have been able to complete our work with about 2,700 so far this year. The number of workers is dropping and not just due to the employment office's efforts. The foreign administrators have done a better job. They like to work with reduced staff. Our own management, our own units are performing much better. They are keeping tighter control of their personnel roster. All that has been said about inflated payrolls in the rest of the economy has been in vain. This has been a good experience for Cubanacan. However, the fact that enterprises are soliciting our services rather than hiring personnel on their own and that we provide them with well-trained, prepared personnel makes for first-class efficiency. [end recording]

Population Aging, Growth Rate Slowing Down

PA1808164494 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1710 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 16 Aug (DPA)— The Cuban population is slowly decreasing. A report to be presented at the world conference on population in Cairo in September claims it is dropping six per every 1,000 persons each year.

The report says the population in Cuba is expected to reach 11 million toward the end of 1994.

However, Cuban experts are concerned about a possible population decrease in the past decade and believe that this could lead to a real population loss near the year 2020.

The report says Cuba is closer to the demographic indicators of industrialized nations than to that of similar nations and that since 1978, a very peculiar situation has been manifested in Cuba: Cuban women do not manage, on average, to have a daughter before they lose their fertility, approximately at the age of 50.

According to the document "Cuban women are not replacing themselves and therefore, we foresee little prospect for recovering or elevating the gross rate of reproduction or average number of daughters per woman."

According to a report published in the nineties, only 19 countries have overall reproduction rates lower than that in Cuba.

The report attributes this decrease to a general rise in the cultural level of the population; to inclusion of women in the public, social, and work force; to improvement in the health of the general population, and to the use of modern birth control methods, including abortion services.

The report adds that at first gradually and then more quickly, the Cuban population will be growing older, accompanied by a reduction in the mortality rate and a high life expectancy, which reaches an average 75 years.

According to statistics, currently 10 percent of the Cuban population is over 60 years old and approximately 1 million people are benefiting economically from social security. The experts anticipate that the changes could become drastic when the number of old people will triple between the years 2025 to 2030, then those over 60 years old will outnumber by 13 percent those persons under 15 years of age.

In that sense the UN Population Fund office in Cuba said the effects of aging are beginning to be felt and will be more noticeable in 2025, when the retirement "boom" occurs of those who were born in the baby boom era in the early sixties.

Havana Province Surpasses Sugarcane Harvest Goal

FL1808131994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Report by Roberto Canela; from the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] The ceremony marking the end of the sugarcane harvest in Havana Province was celebrated with the distribution of incentives to leading sugarcane cutters from the province's local transportation union. The five brigades cut more than 10 million arrobas of sugarcane, fulfilling the goal of seven million arrobas 139 percent. The Fernando Alvarez Brigade, the first to reach the three-million arroba goal, played a leading role in the efforts.

Dominican Republic

Foreign Minister Named To 'Strengthen' U.S. Ties

PA1908002494 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2255 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 18 Aug (DPA)—Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer has appointed his former vice president, Carlos Morales Troncoso, as the new Dominican foreign minister.

It was revealed in domestic political circles that the goal of the appointment is to "strengthen relations with the U.S. Government," which have been very tense following the 16 May elections. The U.S. Government has publicly stated that there were serious irregularities in the recent elections and recommended the holding of new elections.

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Morales Troncoso was vice president up until two days ago, and he will occupy the post held by Juan Aristides Taveras Guzman for the past two years. This is the only change made by President Balaguer in his cabinet since last Tuesday, when he was sworn in as his country's president for the seventh time. It is expected, however, that he will announce more changes within the next few days.

Opposition PRD Announces Withdrawal From Congress

PA1808235294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2229 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 18 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) today announced its withdrawal from the two legislative chambers in the National Congress, and its refusal to return until President Joaquin Balaguer convenes a constitutional assembly.

Unsuccessful PRD presidential candidate Jose Francisco Pena Gomez said Balaguer must commit himself to reforming the Constitution and include proposals contained in the "Pact for Democracy" signed on 10 August to resolve the post-electoral crisis.

Pena Gomez said the National Assembly must meet to change certain things, and he added, "until we are certain that this is being done, we cannot authorize the presence of our legislators in the Chamber of Deputies or the Senate."

The PRD and other smaller parties supported the candidacy of Pena Gomez in the past elections, winning 57 of 120 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and half of the 30 seats in the Senate. A senator and four deputies elected with PRD support rejected the decision of the opposition party and attended Balaguer's inauguration.

The PRD now has 14 senators, because Virgilio Castillo was elected Senate vice president, and therefore, he is obliged to attend its sessions.

In the Chamber of Deputies, the PRD has 57 of the 120 seats, but analysts believe it could be left with 50 should seven deputies of Democratic Unity, which supported Pena Gomez in the elections, decide to withdraw from the alliance.

The opposition leader insisted that Balaguer must advance reforms and set a deadline for implementing them if he wants PRD congressmen to attend legislative plenary sessions.

Pena Gomez referred to the failure to comply with the "Pact for Democracy" he signed with Balaguer. In the pact, the two agreed to reduce the presidential term to 18 months; later, however, congressmen increased the term to two years.

The PRD wants to modify the reform made to the Constitution this week to order a runoff election should the winning political group garner less than 50 percent of the vote.

Pena Gomez's position will prevent the National Congress from electing by consensus, along with the opposition, the judges that will comprise the new Central Electoral Board (JCE)—the body that will be responsible for organizing the elections on 16 May 1996.

Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister Fabio Herrera said the Dominican Government granted permission to the first group of 40 Haitian political refugees to transit the Dominican Republic en route to exile in the United States.

The opponents of the Haitian military regime will travel to the Dominican border accompanied by officials from the U.S. Embassy in Haiti. Permits will later be granted to another 40 refugees.

U.S. spokesmen reported that about 800 supporters of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide are in hiding in Haiti and are authorized to enter U.S. territory, because it was confirmed that they are being persecuted and have received death threats.

Haiti

Latin American Foreign Ministers Expected

FL1808145694 Port-au-Prince Radio Magik Stereo in French 1130 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Venezuela intends to fulfill its proposal to send a delegation to Port-au-Prince, a mission of Latin American foreign ministers opposed to intervention. To that effect, a Venezuelan delegate is reportedly in Haiti to prepare for the arrival of those foreign ministers who are endorsing a new summit between Aristide and Cedras.

Ill Treatment of Haitians in Cuba Denounced

FL1808203794 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1400 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] In a communique issued last night, the government stated that it denounces the ill treatment inflicted on Haitians parked at the Guantanamo camp—we quote—as well as the discriminatory attitude of the Americans. The government condemns all those who, for the purpose of politics, encouraged and still encourage our compatriots to risk their lives on the high seas. This deplorable incident, continued the government, proves once again that the Haitian is master of his own land and as a consequence, the Haitian must refrain from creating a breach with those who opportunistically denigrate and humiliate the nation. Meanwhile, the government reminds the population of the dangers brought about by attempting this mad adventure. The provisional government calls to reason all those who, according to the government, finance the boat people operations that tarnish the image and prestige of the Haitian people.

Government Commission Aims To Reduce Prices

FL1808195994 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1400 GMT 18 aug 94

[Text] The Jonassaint government says it is sensitive to the breathtaking rise in the cost of living. A ministerial

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commission has been set up to examine this file and is due to make recommendations aimed at reducing the prices of essential products as soon as possible. This commission includes the Ministries of Commerce, Finance, Planning, and the Interior. While awaiting the conclusion of work by this commission, the provisional government calls for understanding so an appreciable reduction in the cost of living can be achieved, says the communique from the Information Ministry of the Jonassaint government.

Military Arrests Aristide Backers in Southwest

PA1908000094 Paris AFP in Spanish 2245 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 18 Aug (AFP)—Some 45 people have been arrested by local military authorities over the past few days in the south and southwestern part of the country, concurring sources reported today.

A total of 39 people, including two women, were arrested by soldiers in the city of Cavaillon, 180 km southwest of the Haitian capital, according to the priest Gerard Jean Juste, a friend of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. In a communique sent to AFP, the priest said the arrests took place after an unidentified individual on 5 August [date as received] took down the flag that had been flying in front of the municipal offices.

Provisional Haitian President Emile Jonassaint (not recognized by the international community) on 20 June ordered government officials to keep all Haitian flags permanently flying as part of a patriotic mobilization against a threatened foreign invasion.

Meanwhile, military authorities in Miragoane (85 km southwest of Port-au-Prince) arrested Engineer Gardy Leblanc yesterday, accusing him of being an Aristide supporter, according to AHP, the Haitian press agency. Five other young men, members of mass organizations that support the exiled president, also were arrested yesterday and taken to Miragoane, AHP added.

Mediation Committee Advocates Negotiations

FL1808195894 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] The national mediation committee has reaffirmed its attachment to negotiation and dialogue for a solution to the situation in Haiti. The committee remains at the disposal of the Haitian community to help the various parties to articulate their positions and claims and to initiate dialogue among themselves and with the international community.

Socialist Groups Welcome UN Mission

FL1808231994 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] PANPRA [Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti] and the socialist bloc welcome the initiative of the UN secretary general and call for protagonists of the crisis to make a final compromise. Evoking the latest events that occurred in the Dominican Republic, events that PANPRA called historical understanding, Serge Gilles' party thinks that it is not too late for the political parties in Haiti to save the country from division and intervention. PANPRA and the socialist bloc in the Chamber of Deputies consider that the solution of the crisis is not in the victory of one camp against another, but in an effort of good faith from each sector. The socialists invite the political class to resolve their differences and take advantage of the UN good will mission. PANPRA representative in the Chamber of Deputies, Marcel Morquette, explains:

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Morquette] So far as such a negotiation shows UN sincerity to solve the crisis, we think that with all the suffering that the Haitian people are facing right now—essential products so high, gasoline extremely expensive—I suppose that the protagonists, everyone opposed to the crisis and responsible for the crisis, could sit together to find peace so that the Haitian people are free. It is not only the protagonists who are concerned, it is the entire Haitian nation that hungers; people are dying in hospital due to lack of medicines. Therefore, in the face of such a crucial and difficult situation, I believe that it is time for us to stop shooting at one another. It is time to stop fighting so we can try to solve the country's problems. Since the UN is sending a final negotiation mission, I am asking all sectors in the country to use all their good faith to help the UN—having reached an understanding within ourselves, to see if we can come out of this hell.

[Reporter Jean] What should each sector do to reach such an historical compromise in Haiti?

[Morquette] We in PANPRA, and especially myself, observe that all sectors have reproaches to address. When a sector, no matter how progressive it might be, no matter how much it is struggling for change—it is true, the country needs change; things must change in this country. However, despite the respect that I have for them, one must recognize that those sectors also made mistakes. We are not saying that they made very serious mistakes, but they made mistakes. It is necessary to be tolerant, it is necessary to make the reality relative, as well as the mistakes made by each person, so that we can agree with one another. We put aside our mistakes and we put together what unites us—the truth—so that we can move forward. [end recording]

Radio Station Ordered To End Broadcast of VOA

PA1808222594 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2112 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 18 Aug (DPA)—It was learned today that Radio Citadelle, a private station that broadcasts from the northern city of Cap Haitien, has been ordered to stop rebroadcasting information being transmitted to Haiti by VOA.

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According to radio stations in Port-au-Prince, a ranking Army officer in Cap Haitien notified Radio Citadelle's Board of Directors of the ban yesterday afternoon.

Following the coup d'etat on 30 September 1991, radio stations in Cap Haitien stopped broadcasting news, and since then, several had started rebroadcasting VOA, which became the only source of local and regional information for the area's population.

In Port-au-Prince, Radio Arc-en-Ciel (Rainbow)—the only station rebroadcasting VOA's programs in Creole—recently was forced to suspend its news broadcasts because of threats.

AFP Report on Degradation of Living Conditions

FL1808215794 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The following is a report by Dominique Levanti, AFP representative in Haiti. The living conditions of the peasants are deteriorating in Haiti, where the unloading of food aid from the United States is increasing the dislocation of the agricultural sector, officials of international organizations told AFP on 17 August. The U.S. food assistance plan, which plans to increase from 800,000 to 2 million meals per day, will be accomplished to the detriment of national agricultural production, the prices of which are threatened with collapse. The peasants run the risk of becoming permanent assistance recipients, according to officials who wish to remain anonymous. There must be a true cry of alarm in view of the degradation of the Haitian food supply.

Haiti's food deficit varies between 200,000 and 300,000 tons per year and is increasingly offset by the United States. U.S. rice imports totaled 100,000 tons in 1992 and 148,000 in 1993, whereas the country was self-sufficient in rice six years ago and—strangely—Thailand's broken rice, which is much less expensive, is never seen. In addition, they note very strong U.S. pressures on international organizatons and Non-Governmental Organizations to accept food resulting from the agricultural surplus of the United States. This policy is also reflected in the particularly finicky control of the U.S. fleet, vis-a-vis ships coming from Europe and carrying food products not prohibited by the embargo. [passage omitted]

In their opinion, the imposition of a total trade embargo in May had dramatic consequences on the peasants, with discontinuation of exports of coffee and cocoa, which amounted to $15 million per year; essential oils, including vetiver, totaling $14 million; and mangoes to the U.S. market of $12 million. [passage omitted]

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PRD's Cardenas Promises To Support Winner If Vote Clean

PA1808150694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1512 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Aug (EFE)—Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, Mexican presidential candidate, told EFE that if the 21 August elections are honest, he will support the winner unconditionally, although he said that "the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] neither knows how to or has the chance of winning a clean election."

Cardenas assured EFE: "If the elections are honest, I will support the winner, no matter who he is." Cardenas represents the main opposition to the government of the PRI, a party of which he was a member and that for the second time he is trying to defeat in the 21 August general elections.

Cardenas, 60, founder of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), on whose ticket he is running, said that the incoming government "will have to be a transitional government. It will have to lay the foundations for evolution from a state party regime to a democratic system."

For Cardenas, the post-electoral scenario will depend on the executive, although he reiterated that the mobilization in the country could be "a factor for discouraging the government from trying to alter election results."

He emphasized that "if the government pursues a violent situation and wants to confront society," there will be thousands of protests.

For Cardenas, 1994 will be different from 1988, when officially—despite charges of fraud—he was defeated by Carlos Salinas de Gortari, "since the political situation is different now and the organization of democratic forces is different."

"We have more representation, many more young people who were not part of the 1988 elections are participating, and those who had other options are also participating. We have six more years of experience. These have shown us that there is a capacity to summon and organize that did not exist in 1988," he added.

Cardenas said that in these elections a trustworthy voters list is not available because "everything that had to be corrected was not corrected," while he assured that "the PRI neither knows how to or has the chance of winning a clean election."

He labelled as "cosmetic" the electoral reforms of President Salinas' government because "they have taken a step backward in relation to what was being requested. We have not had one local election that has not been questioned."

In Cardenas' opinion, there is no willingness to change in the government, and his party has no reason to believe there is going to be change. For example, he said, two times in this six-year administration an electoral census was necessary.

Cardenas called Ernesto Zedillo, the PRI presidential candidate, "an emergency candidate, unknown to the public, made up on the spot. Affection and popularity are not achieved from one day to the next."

His opinion of Diego Fernandez de Cevallos, the National Action Party's (PAN) candidate, is one of mistrust, because "one day he's saying one thing and the next he is contradicting himself."

"He criticizes me for having belonged to the PRI, but I have not heard one criticism of Manuel J. Clouthier or Francisco Barrios (prominent PAN members) for (previously) having been PRI members."

In Cardenas' opinion, Fernandez de Cevallos' serious problem is that he is doing with the PAN what Salinas did with the PRI by supporting the same regime, the same maneuvers, and finally shutting off democratic opportunities.

Cardenas said he trusted "Subcommander Marcos" more than Fernandez de Cevallos because "he deserves respect for having decided to risk his life to have his rights respected, without taking into account what we think of the road" he chose.

On the polls that rank him third in the election race, Cardenas said that "these are the same ones conducted in 1988. They said the same thing, and in the end they had to shut down the computer system."

In Cardenas' opinion, the polls "are arranged. They are accommodated," but they (the PRI) know very well what is happening. "They must be very nervous; the PRI is not fooled by these polls."

With regard to the Zapatist guerrillas and the National Democratic Convention that called on people not to vote for the PRI, Cardenas said that it appears logical "to ask any sensible person to vote against the PRI."

He seemed satisfied with the fact that those who fostered violence on 1 January "are now appealing for participation in the elections by turning over decisions to a civilian organization."

With regard to the Mexican economic sector's warnings that foreign investment will be withdrawn if Cardenas wins, the candidate said that "there will be no capital flight."

He concluded by saying that with a government "that offers reasonable change, that offers stability, that maintains attractive rates and revenues for the investors, "I do not see why" they would end their participation in the nation's development. [quotation marks as received]

Salinas Speaks About Elections, Urges Mexicans To Vote

PA1908042994 Mexico City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Address by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari at Los Pinos Presidential Palace in Mexico City; date not given—recorded]

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[Text] Compatriots: We will hold elections on 21 August to elect the president of the Republic and most of the legislature. I am urging you to vote. I want all of us to exercise our important right on Sunday. I also want to share with you some reflections on the elections and on the responsibility that all of us have to the nation.

In the past few years we have made changes to make the electoral process more honest and to advance our democracy. We have made changes in the laws, in personnel, and in our mechanisms. For the first time, the organization of the elections is not in the hands of the government or the political parties; instead, it in the hands of independent citizens. Electoral authorities are making decisions with complete autonomy and have a career in electoral service.

The impartiality of the electoral process is thereby strengthened. We have an extraordinary electoral registry that will guarantee the basic principle of one person, one vote. This registry has been audited 36 times, and on one occasion by an outside agency. In addition, we have photo identification cards.

We can feel proud for having one of the best voluntary electoral registries in the world today. All political parties agreed to select more than 2.5 million citizens from the electoral registry through a drawing, and out of that total, more than 750,000—who were also chosen at random—will serve as polling station functionaries. The citizens who were selected can attest to this. All of them attended training centers, and all of them are aware of the important commitment they have to you and to democracy. As president of the Republic, and on behalf of the people of Mexico, I wish to thank all of them for the seriousness with which they have assumed their commitment, and I want to assure you that they will be able to assume their duties with the full support of the Mexican state.

For the first time, as you recall, there was a debate on television among several presidential candidates, and we managed to have the media provide more balanced coverage of political campaigns in their newscasts. We must continue to advance in this area.

To contribute to this spirit of equity we suspended coverage of certain government programs to avoid claims that they sought to support a specific party. In this election, we established a fund to ensure that political parties had the resources to send representatives to polling stations in places that they could not reach in the past, but where they will be this time around.

The parties themselves have noted that their representatives will be present at more than 90 percent of the polling stations. This is one notable aspect of this election. For the first time, we have appointed a special prosecutor for electoral issues—a man who is recognized for his prestige and honor. His task will be to investigate and, as necessary, mete out justice to those who commit electoral crimes. For the first time, each ballot sent to the polling stations with be numbered to allow officials to ascertain that all ballots were indeed received.

The ballot boxes will be transparent—but without jeopardizing the secrecy of the vote—to ensure that only the votes submitted properly are inside them. For the first time, the slit on the boxes will not allow more than one ballot to be submitted at a time. The tables at which citizens mark their ballot will be equipped with a small curtain to allow people to vote in absolute privacy.

As you know, Mexican technicians successfully produced an indelible ink that no product will be able to remove on Election Day. They also have guaranteed that it will not damage the skin. Respect for votes at polling stations is guaranteed. The polling station presidents, accompanied by party representatives, will deliver the votes to the district councils where the civilian advisers, who were appointed by virtue of an agreement reached by the political parties, will receive them. In the presence of the parties, they will tally the results of each polling station.

Once the compilation of results from all polling stations is complete, civilian councilmen will prepare, in public sessions and in the presence of representatives from every party, the final tally sheets for each district. These tally sheets will be forwarded to the State Councils and General Council of the Electoral Federal Institute [IFE], where they will be checked, also in the presence of everyone, to obtain overall results.

Thousands of Mexicans have voluntarily committed themselves to observe the electoral process, and this surely will contribute to more transparent elections. In addition, as an active member of the United Nations—the UN—we invited the UN's excellent technical team to share its view on the quality of our electoral rules, as well as to train and advise national observers in their important task. In its report, the United Nations recognized the quality and depth of the reforms we have made, and it highlighted the fact that the elections are in the hands of the citizens.

Without a doubt, our reforms have been profound. Therefore, these elections today bestow the greatest confidence in our history. Today we can affirm with satisfaction that all of the dialogue and agreements have led to reforms that have made progressive advances in electoral matters, paving the way for additional reforms to consolidate this process.

At all times, the road to a better democracy has been dialogue, complete freedom and expression, and respect for the law. In particular, the agreements reached by the presidential candidates and the leaders of the political parties on 27 January have been particularly important, as has their recent commitment to act within the framework of the law during and after the elections.

The new regulations and better conditions for the elections are, in short, the result of a great national crusade

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in favor of democracy. Following the 21 August elections, once authorities have validated the election results, the parties have within the Federal Electoral Court an impartial venue in which to settle any disputes. This is the institution to go to in the case of disputes to resolve them in a timely and definitive manner. It is the responsibility of political parties to substantiate their claims. It is the duty of the court to issue its rulings in accordance with the law. It is an obligation of the government to ensure compliance with these decisions.

In recent months, I have painstakingly traveled throughout the country. I have listened to the people, and I have found a favorable atmosphere for holding the elections. Every electoral contest, when it is honest, like this one, naturally prompts some uncertainty, especially when it is so intense and receives so much coverage. This is what democracy is all about. Nevertheless, the virtue of democracy is being able to guarantee the civility of the parties while guiding an electoral contest down a political and institutional road.

Electoral authorities and officials working at the polling stations will enjoy security when fulfilling their responsibilities. Moreover, and this is even more important, all political forces favor normal elections. There is no group or political force that has opposed holding Sunday's elections. This, along with the security measures adopted, are the best guarantee for all of us as we take part in the democratic process we have been building. We will get there together, united.

My fellow Mexicans, since the beginning of my administration, I pledged as president of all Mexicans to promote a national agreement to reform our institutions and electoral processes. Since then, I have insisted that in terms of electoral matters, we would go as far as dialogue and agreements between political parties allowed. Our progress has been enormous. The elections are being prepared impartially and within all legal timeframes.

On 21 August, elections will be held in accordance with the law, with transparency, and in a democratic manner. This joint effort ensures that on 1 December, the candidate who receives the most votes from his fellow citizens will become the next president of Mexico. We have reason to be optimistic. It is important to participate in this electoral process with enthusiasm and responsibility. This is why I ask you to come out and vote.

The more people who vote, the better it will be for the country. We must vote to enable Mexico to move forward. We must vote to enable the economy to recover. We must vote to enable public security to become stronger. We must vote to reaffirm that peace is the path for Mexico. We must vote on Sunday. If we do, the election will be an example for everyone. It will be a lesson of democracy for our children and, without a doubt, a reason for all Mexicans to feel proud. Thank you.

SECOFI Official Details Foreign Investment

PA1808162694 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 15 Aug 94 p 19

[Report by Marco A. Mares]

[Text] In an interview with UNOMASUNO, Pedro Noyola, undersecretary for foreign trade and investment in the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat, SECOFI, said:

It is not true that the flow of foreign investment stopped in 1994. Despite the regrettable incidents during the first six months of the year, especially Luis Donaldo Colosio's assassination, the dynamic trend of foreign capital channeled to the Mexican economy continues, and everything indicates that by the end of 1994 we will again break the historic record set in 1993 (when a $15.6 billion flow was achieved. That ranked us as the main recipient among developing countries and among the top 10 in the world). In the first six months, $7 billion was captured, which represents a 34 percent increase compared to the first six months of 1993.

Noyola claims that Mexico's capacity to capture foreign investment is six times greater today than six years ago. He stressed that this continues to climb (during the first six months of 1994 direct foreign investments represented 48 percent and portfolio investment 52 percent) and said that investment in the stock market is not dangerous.

He said that the accumulated foreign capital wealth has allowed the creation of 1.3 billion jobs, with stronger and more robust salaries, and it has also made it possible the financing of the balance of payments and current accounts, while strengthening the country's export capacity and improving the technological capacity of the national productive apparatus.

Evolution of Foreign Investment

During the first semester of 1994, foreign investment in the country totalled $7.327 billion, which represents a 34 percent increase over foreign investment in the same period last year. The dynamism of foreign investments, Noyola stressed, reflects the confidence of foreign capitalists in the viability of the country's long-term economic project.

He said that private foreign capital investment during the administration of Carlos Salinas de Gortari totalled $48.7736 billion, which exceeds by 103.2 percent the $24 billion targeted for the entire six-year term.

This placed the historical balance of foreign investments at $72.861 billion at the end of June 1994.

The official recalled that during the administration of President Miguel De la Madrid (1983-1988), the country received an annual average of $2 to $2.2 billion in foreign investments.

From 1989 to 1992, during the first three years of the current six-year term, the annual average foreign investment was $6.5 billion, namely three times as much as that during the previous administration.

In addition, Noyola highlighted that in 1993 alone, Mexico received $15.6 billion in foreign investment,

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seven times more than what it received on average between 1983 and 1992 and more than twice the annual average foreign investment between 1989 and 1992.

He explained that in 1993, a historical record for foreign investments was set across the board. This included both direct foreign investment and foreign investment in the stock market.

The $15.6 billion figure ranked us as the largest recipient country of foreign investment in the developing world and one of the top 10 countries in the world.

The official, speaking in his office on the 18th floor of the SECOFI tower, added that we are already competing with countries like Canada.

When asked about recent unofficial reports about a drop in foreign investment in Mexico, Noyola, citing all figures from memory, said:

All we need to do is examine the trends in the figures, which never lie. From January to June 1994 we received $7 billion. That is a 34 percent increase over the first semester of 1993. He underscored the fact that 1993 had been a historic year that surpassed by far all forecasts on foreign investment.

This means that compared to the first semester of 1993, 1994 is 34 percent above that historical record of $15.6 billion. This also means that we have continued to attract foreign investment throughout the year.

The $7 billion first semester influx is equal to $1.1 billion to $1.2 billion per month. This means we are now attracting in two months the average of what we used to attract in a full year between 1983 and 1988. We have increased foreign investment six times.

It seems this trend will continue for the rest of the year. Foreign investment continues to flow into the country. We see this in all kinds of areas. It has been very active in manufacturing and services.

Noteworthy, Noyola said, is the fact that Asian and European participation in this flow has been growing, especially during 1994. This means that NAFTA and trade agreements signed with Latin American nations have become a means for diversifying Mexico's economic relations. They have generated greater interest in Asia and Europe in investing in our country and in taking advantage of the benefits such treaties and agreements offer.

He was then asked: Does this mean foreign investors do not interpret the recent political and social situation negatively?

What I can say, he answered, is that the flow continues. It would be very difficult to venture a guess on what the flow would have been if the regrettable events of the beginning of the year—particularly the murder of Luis Donaldo Colosio, which had a short term effect on markets—had never happened.

Despite all this and thanks to the way the economic policies set by the designated cabinet were handled, Mexico's economy was able to sail through this stormy period without having to modify the economic pact's basic parameters.

Again, he insisted, it is difficult to determine what the investment flow into the country would have been if these regrettable events had never occurred. What we do know is that all of the projects that began in 1994 are still standing, despite these passing events that so saddened the Mexican people.

We are now seeing how the short and medium term prospects for Mexico's economy are returning to their natural trend, before the very eyes of foreign investors. This trend instills certainty about deregulation policies, opening up, and free agreements as defined by President Salinas. This in turn has led to the consolidation of specific investment projects.

He concluded by affirming that foreign trade complements local private investment efforts and that neither one can replace the other.

Education Cooperation Agreement Signed With Cuba

PA1808153094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0143 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The Governments of Mexico and Cuba have signed two cooperation accords for the exchange of information and the development of different education programs, the Secretariat of Education reported today.

The Secretariat of Education said the agreements signed with Cuba's Ministry of Metallurgy and Electronics Industry established bachelors and masters degree careers in Maintenance and Science Engineering and Materials Engineering.

In a communique, the Secretariat added courses will be offered at the graduate level on the steel and mechanical industries in both countries, and the advancement of Mexican teachers in said areas will be promoted.

The agreements, which are for two years with the option to extend, also establish joint research projects and conferences by academicians from both countries, as well as the printing of technical books.

The agreements were signed by Raul Talan, Mexico's under secretary of education and technological research of the Education Secretariat, and Miguel Macias Sainz, Cuba's vice minister of Science, Technology, and the Environment, among others.

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El Salvador

President on Transfer of Military Intelligence Files

PA1808152894 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Aug 94

[From the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[Text] President Calderon Sol has confirmed that military intelligence files compiled in the past have been transferred to the State Intelligence Organization [OIE], which assumed the duties of the defunct National Intelligence Directorate as established in the peace agreements. The agreements stipulate that the OIE's purpose is the general welfare, independent from any political, ideological, or social opposition considerations. It should limit itself to collecting and analyzing information to protect the general interest through the means and within the limits established by judicial ordinances, particularly a strict respect for human rights. According to President Calderon Sol, the military intelligence files will be used to this end.

[Begin Calderon Sol recording] If they have the files, it is precisely because they must keep files in order to safeguard the national interest and the entire security of the Salvadoran state. In this sense, I can assure you that these files will be used for the benefit of El Salvador. [end recording]

As for the abortion issue, President Calderon Sol said that his government will submit a statement similar to that of the Catholic Church before the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] to be held in Cairo, Egypt, within three weeks. Thus, it will oppose any attempts to legalize abortion.

[Begin Calderon Sol recording] It is a statement defending life, humankind, and human dignity. It constitutes the immaculate respect that must exist toward good in life, and the government thus agrees with the Catholic Church's position. [end recording]

Defense Minister Denies Archives Used by Death Squads

PA1808150394 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Report by Mario Jovell from the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[Text] Defense Minister Brigadier General Humberto Corado Figueroa said today that the Armed Forces' intelligence archives have been transferred to the State Intelligence Organization, OIE. Gen. Corado rejected the concerns expressed by the Joint Working Group [GCT] in a report that said the information gathered by the now defunct National Intelligence Directorate, DNI, which was controlled by the Army, could be used by the death squads and organized crime.

The GCT report expresses the group's concern as to the final disposition of the military intelligence archives compiled during the war. The report claims that some members of the Army could continue intelligence gathering operations. This would be unconstitutional since only the OIE is authorized to perform that task.

The defense minister denied that there is any danger that at any given time the archives could be used for criminal or politically motivated activities, as stated in page 67 of the GCT report.

[Begin Corado recording] I believe the idea that some people have that the archives are dangerous to the citizenry is baseless. The purpose of an armed institution is not to endanger people's lives but to defend the country and its citizens. Given this premise, this idea is totally baseless. [end recording]

The peace accords establish that all intelligence information that was in the Armed Forces' possession should be transferred to the OIE, which the defense minister says has been done.

[Begin Corado recording] All of those documents that were used during the war, because of the necessities and the situation at that time, are in the OIE's possession. It is they who can now give you more information on this issue. [end recording]

Guatemala

De Leon Leaves for Central American Summit

PA1808190394 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1452 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio today traveled to Guacimo, Costa Rica, to attend a summit with his Central American counterparts from whom he will request support for the stagnant peace process of his country.

Before leaving for Guacimo, on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica, De Leon emphasized that he will seek the solidarity of the region's presidents for the peace dialogue with the guerrillas from the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG). The dialogue was suspended last June.

"We must be in solidarity with others in difficult moments," the president pointed out. He insisted that he will also ask the international community for the support necessary for attaining the final goal, which is the signing of a lasting peace agreement.

Foreign Minister Marithza Ruiz and the members of the economic cabinet had left earlier for Guacimo. The Central American summit opens today in Guacimo and will conclude on Saturday.

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De Leon announced on Wednesday that the presidents will try to conclude a document on sustainable development that they will present before the hemispheric summit to be held next December in Miami, United States.

President Views Links Between URNG, EZLN

PA1808153694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2140 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The arsenal seized from the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] confirms that this group is linked to the armed group that emerged in January 1994 in the southeastern Mexican state of Chiapas, Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio has said.

In an interview published today by the Mexican newspaper EL NACIONAL, De Leon Carpio said that the arsenal that was seized consists of 1 million rounds, 1,000 grenades, and hundreds of rifles. He said it is the largest arsenal seized during the 34 years of armed conflict.

The Guatemalan president said that the 8 August discovery of the arsenal confirms the existence of links between the URNG and the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN).

De Leon Carpio rejected the URNG's statement that the four rebels connected to the arsenal were arrested and did not turn themselves in voluntarily.

"As far as I know, the four guerrillas approached the Army on their own. They believe there is no reason to continue fighting anymore and think that the struggle has been in vain," he noted.

As for the current state of the government's negotiations with the URNG, De Leon Carpio pointed out that after 34 years of conflict, there are very difficult issues that need to be resolved.

But he indicated that there is a timetable and a firm commitment to demobilize by the guerrillas that is scheduled for December, as well as a cease-fire for this September. He added that a peace agreement may be signed before the end of the year.

De Leon Carpio, the former human rights ombudsman, referred to the possible candidacy of Rigoberta Menchu, 1992 Nobel Peace Prize winner, in the next Guatemalan presidential elections, noting that she "would certainly have thousands of supporters."

Defense Minister Views Congressional Elections

PA1808170494 Guatemala City Televisiete Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 17 Aug 94

[From the "Channel 7 News" newscast]

[Text] Guatemalan Defense Minister Mario Rene Enriquez has commented on the results of the elections of congress deputies.

[Begin recording] [Enriquez] I think there should be no negative reaction. The consequences of the elections—the people who won them—should be positive for Guatemala. They should contribute to better relations between the branches of the state and between institutions and to the strengthening of democracy in a not too distant future. This is what we should all want in Guatemala.

The people made a decision, and it should be respected. I think the people are becoming more mature as far as democracy goes. I think this has been a very positive step.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Enriquez] Well, the Army...[pauses] I am not going to deny that the Army is not indifferent to what is happening. We would like to see the democratic process in Guatemala grow stronger and become consolidated. To achieve this, it is necessary to have more civic awareness. The Guatemalan people should realize that their votes are important, very important. I think we will understand this little by little and will be seeing more people voting and being more demanding. [end recording]

Honduras

President Vows To Resist Pressure From Fuel Distributors

PA1808153294 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 17 Aug 94 p 11

[Text] President Carlos Roberto Reina said yesterday that his government is unwilling to be pressured or blackmailed by anyone, referring to the announcement by fuel importers who yesterday appeared to have begun rationing fuel supplies.

The rationing comes in reprisal for the government's refusal to approve an increase in fuels [as published], which prompted distributors to withhold 70 percent of their products.

"We will take action against anything done by any association that might harm the country, because the government is for the people," Reina stated.

Distributors began meeting at 1700 with the economic cabinet and special adviser Mario Reina at the Presidential Palace, and Economy and Commerce Minister Delmer Urbizo today will announce the agreements reached.

In commenting on this topic, President Reina said the meeting between the economic cabinet and the Liberal Party's Central Executive Council (CCEPL) "was very

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good, as it shows the party supporting its government and that there are no differences with the National Congress."

Reina announced that the package of economic measures will be submitted next Tuesday to the National Congress, although he noted some changes are pending.

"It will be submitted. The problem has been well focused so that it is an absolutely democratic consensus," he added.

Reina will travel today to Costa Rica to attend the 15th summit and will return here next weekend.

The president made these remarks yesterday at his Casa Quemada country estate. Later he posed and talked for five hours with a correspondent from a German magazine that is doing a feature on him and his family.

Japan To Provide $50 Million in Aid During 1994

PA1808145594 Tegucigalpa EL PERIODICO DE HONDURAS in Spanish 17 Aug 94 p 9

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The financial aid package Japan will provide Honduras this year will total approximately $50 million.

Japanese Ambassador to Honduras Michio Hamano made the announcement. He stated that Honduras continues to be the country receiving the most benefit from his country's donations.

Hamano said that the amount donated last year totaled $35 million, "but we have seen that the money has been well invested; therefore, the figure will increase this year."

The diplomat reported that 3.7 million lempiras have been approved to be invested in potable water projects for La Ceiba.

Hamano explained that La Ceiba was selected because it had recently been declared a "disaster area" due to a lack of drinking water.

The official added that the money will be used to drill wells, set up storage tanks, and repair pipelines and distribution systems.

Panama

President Endara Departs for Costa Rican Summit

PA1808145894 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1211 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Panama City, 18 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian President Guillermo Endara traveled today to El Guacimo in Costa Rica to take part, together with his Central American colleagues, in a summit to discuss sustainable area development and to standardize social and economic policies, as well as other topics.

Endara, who left at 0700 in a private plane from Paitilla airport in Panama City, will also analyze with other Central American presidents the area's deteriorated infrastructure, such as ports, airports, and roads, a stumbling block for the economic integration isthmian countries seek.

The summit will also serve to discuss mechanisms to earmark greater resources for health and education, two of the weaker flanks for Central America, where some countries have 80 percent of their population living in poverty and the illiteracy rate surpasses 40 percent.

Guillermo Endara will take advantage of the occasion to bid farewell to his colleagues after four years of encouraging Panama's approach to Central America, a policy not shared by President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares.

Perez Balladares, who will take office on 1 September, will also travel today to the Central American summit, invited by Costa Rican President Jose Maria Figueres.

Perez Balladares will travel to Costa Rica at 0900, accompanied by Foreign Minister-designate Gabriel Lewis Galindo.

A spokesman for the president-elect told ACAN-EFE that Perez Balladares, who will travel in a private airplane, will return to Panama today.

The Costa Rican summit will be attended by Presidents Ramiro De Leon Carpio (Guatemala), Armando Calderon (El Salvador), Carlos Roberto Reina (Honduras), Violeta Chamorro (Nicaragua), Jose Maria Figueres (Costa Rica), Guillermo Endara (Panama), and Belizean Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel.

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Argentina

Di Tella Thanks U.S. for Support, But Argentina To Make Own Decisions

PY1808210394 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1433 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 18 Aug (TELAM)—The Argentine Government today thanked the United States for its support of an eventual rupture of relations with Iran, but it made it clear that only the government is in a position to adopt that type of diplomatic decision.

This was stressed today by Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, who thus referred to the statements made on 17 August by U.S. Ambassador James Cheek, who guaranteed his government's support of an eventual rupture of relations between Argentina and Iran.

President Carlos Menem has invited the population to attend the "mass for peace" that will be held in the Metropolitan Cathedral this afternoon at 1830 [2130 GMT], one month after the attack against the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association]. [passage omitted]

Di Tella also acknowledged that there is "public pressure to push us toward making abrupt decisions," although he stated that "it is better not to take them and thus respond to the true needs of the country."

"We are not going to take any steps unless there is unequivocal evidence of a legal nature that would support such a decision," he stressed in remarks to Radio America.

The minister remarked that "relations with the United States are not based on adventurous hypotheses; the relations are based on concrete facts."

In this respect, Di Tella recalled that the United States broke off relations with Iran after a "serious diplomatic" problem: The assault on its embassy in Tehran, in which 50 hostages were taken, on 4 November 1979, during Jimmy Carter's tenure.

"Our problem is different than that of the United States," Di Tella said.

Vice Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella remarked that Cheek's statements "are moral support, because nothing else exists," and he added that "it would be very unusual for a country to support another country in an action that involves a third country."

He added that "when two countries do not have relations, there are always third parties that represent them and nonpolitical relations can continue, but I do not believe that this is the issue."

In conclusion, Petrella said that Cheek "has once again demonstrated the solidarity that the United States shows Argentina in many of its international actions." [passage omitted]

'Arafat, Rabin, Others on Terrorism, Bombing

PY1808201094

[Editorial Report] Buenos Aires Telefe LS84 Television Network in Spanish at 0100 GMT on 17 August broadcasts Bernardo Neustadt's regular Tuesday talk program "Tiempo Nuevo" featuring, among other guests, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, Israeli Ambassador to Argentina Yitzhaq Aviran, Iranian Ambassador to Argentina Hadi Soleymanpur, and Ruben Beraja, president of the Argentine-Israeli Associations Delegation. 'Arafat and Rabin speak in English with simultaneous voice translation into Spanish along with a phrase-by-phrase captioned translation.

The program begins with Neustadt explaining the difficulties in making the necessary arrangements for the interview with 'Arafat in Gaza, and first airing a recorded clip with the Palestinian president. Neustadt starts by saying that "we must live and let others live. This is what God commands us to do, be it Allah, my God, or your God. What I do not like to see is the dying and the killing." At this point 'Arafat interrupts, saying:

"No, I am not accepting my God and your God. I can't accept this argument. There is one God for me and for you and for all of us. I am completely astonished to hear you say your God and my God. We have one God only, all of us. I hope that you correct yourself; be careful."

Neustadt then agrees to withdraw what he said, and asks why he must be careful.

'Arafat answers: "Because you are saying that there are many Gods. There is one God. You are saying my God, and speak about your God. There is one God only, for all of us. I can't accept this argument. I am a strong believer."

When Neustadt says that he withdraws his previous remarks, 'Arafat adds: "But it is a big mistake. You must go and pray tonight for the mistake you have made."

The program continues with Neustadt talking with a priest and commenting on the current diplomatic difficulties with Iran. He then talks with Israeli Ambassador Aviran, who says, in Spanish:

"This is a very difficult problem. It takes time. We need time, and we must hope there will be a solution. It might take time to reach a solution. How much time? No one can tell. I think there is anti-Semitism in this country. We must not deny it. We hear statements, there are publications, there is literature that anyone can purchase. There is also a problem with education. People are still being told anti-Semitic stories. This time I hope we will have all the support of the Argentine Government. The president told me that. I hope that in a short time, without specifying months, days, or hours, we will solve this problem."

Neustadt then talks with Iranian Ambassador to Argentina Hadi Soleymanpur, who is introduced with a question. "Is it true that Iran's diplomatic mail carries

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instructions concerning people's lives or death?" The Iranian ambassador answers, in Spanish:

"No. That is completely untrue."

Neustadt insists: "Do you know whether Argentina is thinking of breaking relations with Iran?"

Soleymanpur says: "No, not so far. I think relations between Iran and Argentina are beneficial for the Argentine and Iranian peoples. We have always maintained healthy trade relations with Argentina. No country wants to lose a market worth (?$500 million)."

Neustadt says: "Excuse me. But I prefer one life to a market."

Soleymanpur answers: "Me, too."

Neustadt then asks, referring to the casualties caused by the bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association, AMIA: "If you could, what would you tell the nearly 100 dead at Pasteur Street?"

Soleymanpur consults with his interpreter, and replies: "I ask my God and their God, which are the same, to afford them happiness in the other life."

Neustadt then asks Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin if he would fulfill Israel's agreements with 'Arafat. Rabin answers:

"No doubt we have taken mutual commitments. Every one of us has to stick to his own commitments."

Neustadt then expresses regret over the excessive security needed around Israeli organizations, and continues his interview with 'Arafat. Neustadt asks 'Arafat if he could recall the numerous attacks made against his life. 'Arafat says:

"First of all, it is very difficult for me to remember how many times this has happened. But it is enough for you to remember what Sharon mentioned in one of his statements, that he tried to assassinate me 10 times. Many other times in Beirut, inside our homeland, in Tunisia, and many other places. But I am a strong believer. I believe in God."

Neustadt then asks if 'Arafat thinks Iran supports terrorism, and 'Arafat says:

"First of all, you know that the fanatic groups are getting support from Iran, from some Arab countries (?to subvert) the peace process, and at the same time to push forward the fanatic groups in many places, and to actually spoil the very good and important shape of Islam. But at the same time it is very important that everybody know that our people, the Palestinian people, the Arab nation and the Islamic nation, are not following and do not accept what they are doing."

Neustadt asks 'Arafat what made him change his mind about Israel, and 'Arafat answers:

"After the Gulf war we agreed upon President Bush's initiative to go to the Madrid Conference and to participate in it. Before that we agreed upon the 10 Egyptian points of President Mubarak and the five points of Mr. Baker. We continued in the negotiations, which took place among many nations in many capitals. The bilateral talks took place in Washington, but the Israelis were maneuvering, so we started the secret negotiations that took place in Oslo, in order to achieve the peace of the brave. But we also have to speak frankly; we are still facing some troubles. The Israelis are putting up obstacles and delaying the handing over of entire responsibility for the West Bank. I am asking the cosponsors, the international community, and His Excellency Carlos Menem for assistance and support, for both of us, for the Israelis and the Palestinians. This is an appeal from me, here from Gaza, for the entire international community to help us protect the peace process through the real and the honest implementation of what I agreed upon. Israel hasn't the right to make any demographic changes or discuss with any other body, or with any other partner, the situation in the holy city Jerusalem, only with the Palestinians."

Neustadt then asks 'Arafat why so little peace in the Middle East costs so much bloodshed, and what Argentina could do to avoid being considered a terrorist target. 'Arafat says:

"First of all, you have to understand that what is going on in the Middle East is not only our problem. Whether we are here or there, this is the holy land. Your holy and sacred places are there in the holy land. Our holy and sacred places are here in the holy land. And at the same time, to achieve real peace in this holy and sacred land, there must be sacrifices here and there. It is not only a spot on the map. It is more than that. This is the holy land for the Jews, for the Christians, and for Muslims all over the world. And without a doubt I condemn completely what has happened, and I send my condolences to His Excellency President Carlos for the victims of this action."

Neustadt asks whether he could have done anything to prevent the bombing. 'Arafat answers:

"As I said to His Excellency President Carlos Menem, I am ready to coordinate, with all our possibilities, in offering help. It is my duty to do that."

Neustadt then asks DAIA President Ruben Beraja if he finds it useful to listen to 'Arafat. Beraja says:

"Yes. I am pleased. I am pleased because he clearly and forcefully points to the beginning of a new era in the Middle East. I think this process was thought to be impossible for many people who were not acquainted with Middle East geography and nature. They thought that an encounter between Arab and Jewish people was impossible, and this process is clearly showing that it is possible. Those who can stretch their memories a bit will

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recall the glorious golden Spanish era, when Arabs, Jews, and Christians coexisted in an era of extraordinary creativity."

Neustadt asks Beraja if he believes 'Arafat. Beraja answers:

"I believe him."

After a short break, Neustadt asks 'Arafat if he thinks the AMIA bombing was due to Argentina's foreign policies, and whether Argentina should break relations with Iran. 'Arafat says:

"I haven't the right to interfere in this, but you have to remember that terrorist actions have happened everywhere, even in the United States, they have happened, and in many European countries as well. It is a problem, an international problem, and we have to get together to face it, and not let these terrorist actions spoil our vision of the future."

Neustadt interrupts, saying that we must thank God for being alive, and insists on asking 'Arafat if Iran had something to do with the attack. 'Arafat says:

"First of all, you have to put into consideration that living in Argentina is not like living on the moon. It is not part of the moon. Argentina is one of the most important countries in Latin America, and one of the biggest countries in Latin America. You are playing a very important role on an international level. You can't be far away from what is going on in the Middle East. You can't be far away what is going on in Europe. You can't be far away what is going in Asia or in Africa. This, in accordance with modern life, is a small world, and we have to pull the net together, for the sake of our new generations."

Neustadt then says that he shares 'Arafat's philosophy, that Argentina is part of the world, but he wonders if the country has to pay with the blood of its children for playing that role, "even if we sound selfish." 'Arafat answers:

"I don't want to say that you are selfish, but I am sure that you don't have a narrow-minded vision. Live and let others live, but through coordination. We are part of this international community, all of us, you and me, wherever we are."

At this point 'Arafat's objection to Neustadt's remarks about his God and your God is repeated.

Neustadt then asks 'Arafat for his reaction to the arrest of the famous terrorist Carlos. 'Arafat says:

"I met him once only, when we were in Beirut, and he came to see me with some friends, some Lebanese friends, but I didn't have the opportunity to get to know him."

Neustadt then asks: "Why did you order the arrest of 35 leaders of the Palestine organization Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement?" 'Arafat answers:

"Because they declared that they were responsible for an incident of attacking Israelis in the Gaza Strip. This is against the peace agreement."

Asked if he would fulfill the peace agreement with Israel, as Yitzhaq Rabin promised, 'Arafat says:

"They are not implementing exactly what was agreed upon, for example, what is going on concerning Jerusalem. As an example, they didn't...[pauses]. They are three months late in handing over responsibilities on the West Bank. Please, please, first of all, I have to thank you for giving me this opportunity. And please convey this to the people of Argentina, these friendly people of Argentina, who have supported us on all fields and at all times in achieving the peace of the brave. My best wishes and regards to His Excellency President Carlos Menem, from heart to heart."

Neustadt then talks with the Ruben Beraja, president of the Argentine-Jewish Associations Delegation, DAIA, who comments on 'Arafat's remarks:

"It is an interesting experience listening to him. I am surprised by his reaction with respect to your question. I thought he reacted with a surprising bit of authoritarianism, because we all practice monotheism. But there are people who do not believe in God, and we must also accept them."

Asked if Argentina should break relations with Iran, Beraja says:

"We cannot answer in a...[pauses] Do you want a quick answer? I think it is an achievement when a state can maintain relations with the greatest number of states. It is a loss to break relations with anyone. We must break relations only if Iran does not give effective answers to Argentina's questions. So far it has not provided those answers."

Asked whether he knows whether the Iranian Embassy participated in the attack, Beraja says:

"The information I have, which does not refer just to the recent attack, but goes back to the attack on the Israeli Embassy, includes serious indications pointing to some involvement, some support offered by the Iranian Embassy."

Asked if he thinks the Iranian ambassador will return to Argentina, Beraja says:

"I hope not."

Neustadt adds: "You do not want him to." Beraja corrects himself, and says: "I do not want him to."

Asked if there is negligence in the investigations, Beraja says:

"No, I do not think we can judge the results of the investigation only 30 days after the attack. I am familiar with Judge Juan Jose Galeano's work and with the work of other state organizations. I know the executive

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branch's concerns on this issue. I think it is a national problem. This is not something affecting only some of us."

Asked about the terrible impression caused by the various obstacles confronting Jewish installations, Beraja says:

"There will be changes, as the municipality is studying different models establishing defenses, which are necessary at this time. But it is important and true that everyone wishes that these measures were not necessary. There is an international effort to put an end to terrorism. That should scare us more than the barrels filled with cement and sand."

Asked about people's fears and the fact that some of them are keeping their children away from Jewish installations, Beraja says:

"I think we have to respect their fears, and particularly the feelings of parents, who are very sensitive and whose worlds close around their children. We should not generalize and accuse everyone of discriminating when they are only afraid. But we must also admit that some people take advantage of the agitation to let their racism and hate loose."

Beraja concludes his participation in the program, saying:

"I think that what Argentina needs at this time, what all of us need after this commotion that occurred 30 days ago, and without forgetting the victims' pain and everything we lost, is to try to recover our balance and accept that we are not on the moon, as was just said. We should show courage in trying to recover our path seeking justice and peace."

Muslim Journalist's TV Program Remarks Noted

PY1808222394 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1501 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Aug (TELAM)—Argentine journalist Ricardo Elias [Shamsuddin Elia], who participated in an event expressing solidarity with the Palestinian resistance in April 1991, proclaimed himself a Muslim, denied that he had been a member of the Montoneros organization, and condemned as "horrendous" the attack against the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association].

In remarks he made during the program "La Manana," which is aired over ATC [Argentina Televisora Color], Elias indicated that he had collaborated with Peronist magazines, but that he is not a Montonero, and he explained that his participation in an event expressing solidarity with the Palestinians that was held in 1991, during which harsh words were said against Israel, was due to the fact that "as of 1988 I have been working at the Iranian Embassy, in the cultural area."

When he was asked if in his role as translator of the address given by Rahmatollah Bakhtari, an Iranian diplomat, during the event meant that he approved the anti-Zionist policy, he answered: "I am a Muslim; I adhere to the thoughts of Islam, to (Ruhollah) Khomeyni, and to the independence of the Palestinian people, and I am the editor of an Islamic magazine."

He denied that he had talked about "death" or "Jews" during the 1991 event, and regarding the words "annihilation" and "disappearance" in alluding to the state of Israel, he stressed that they were expressed in a "symbolic" manner.

"Khomeyni was never in agreement with the killing of innocent people," Elia stressed, and he said that "we Muslims are brothers of the Jews and of the Christians. We condemn the horrendous attack against the AMIA, and we can guarantee that it was not carried out by an Islamic hand because the perpetrator of this attack does not believe in God; he is against humanity."

Regarding the testimony of the repentant Iranian Manuchehr Motamer, who implicated Iranian diplomats in the attack, he said that it is "irrelevant, it has no foundation," and that "that person never belonged to the Islamic Republic, and the information that he provided must be collated and proven."

DAIA Chief Seeks Support To Pressure Iran

PY1908003394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2131 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Aug (NA)—Ruben Beraja, head of the DAIA [Delegation of Argentine-Israeli Associations], today stressed that the Argentine Government must "continue to strongly press Iran, and if there is no satisfaction, then there must be a rupture of relations."

"I believe that an international reaction must be sparked through an Argentine reaction in order to pressure Iran to modify its policy of protecting terrorism," Beraja said.

Regarding the eventual support that the United States would give to the government of President Carlos Menem in the eventual case of a rupture of relations with Iran, Beraja said that "this demonstrates that Argentina is not alone within the international context."

"Here the risk that Argentina could run in the face of Iranian reprisals has been outlined, and this is an answer to those arguments," the DAIA chief remarked to a radio station.

Moreover, he made it clear that "the real help resides in the press for a mobilization at the international level within the framework of the United Nations in order to pressure and oblige those countries that protect terrorism to stop their actions that violate all the principles of international law."

Beraja stressed that "the topic of terrorism has been included" in the agenda of the hemispheric summit that will take place in Miami at the end of the year.

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Referring to the alleged local support received by the perpetrators of the attack, Beraja said that it could be "persons that came from border areas, neo-Nazis, or extreme right groups."

He also confirmed that the barrels that have been placed in front of some Jewish institutions as a security measure "will be replaced by obstacles that will be much more aesthetic," and he added that it is his hope that those barricades "will simply be installed provisionally."

Interior Minister on Elections, AMIA Case

PY1908021494 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2000 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 18 Aug (NA)—Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf stated today that the 1995 presidential elections will be held on Sunday, 7 May, if the Constituent Assembly, which is holding its sessions in the city of Santa Fe, "does not approve an extension" of President Carlos Menem's mandate.

If there is not an extension of the mandate, the first round of the presidential elections must be held 60 days before the presidential band is exchanged, while the second round has to take place 30 days before that date, in other words, the first Sunday of May.

The Justicialist Party bloc in the Constituent Assembly was promoting a transitory clause that would allow an extension of Menem's current mandate in order that elections for president and governors could be held on the same day.

This initiative was opposed by the Radical Civic Union, Grand Front blocs, the socialists, and the majority of the provincial Constituent Assembly members, who threatened to withdraw en masse if the Justicialist Party tried to force an extension.

Ruckauf also reiterated that "the attack against the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] is linked to people from Lebanon," and he said that "from the viewpoint of Argentine intelligence," there is no doubt about the seriousness "of the alleged Iranian repentant Manuchehr Motamer."

In this respect, the minister indicated that he was convinced that members of the fundamentalist group Hizballah "are involved in the two terrorist attacks," against the Israeli Embassy and against the premises of the AMIA, adding that this group has "an armed branch that is trying to implant in Lebanon a regime similar to the one that exists in Iran."

Ruckauf said that he wants "to be cautious" regarding the investigation that is being carried out by Judge Juan Jose Galeano, and he noted that "it is always very difficult to disarticulate a functioning cell structure in which the last link, in addition, liquidates itself."

"I believe that the investigation must continue, that these brutal attacks must be kept uppermost in the mind, and that we must be ready because the world has changed toward a course that has not been forecast by the analysts," he said to Radio Continental. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Allegedly Involved in AMIA Case Named

PY1908002894 Buenos Aires Telefe LS84 Television Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Relay via satellite link between Telefe LS84 Television Network studio in Buenos Aires and Canal 13 studio in Asuncion—live or recorded]

[Text] [Anchorwoman Rosario, surname not given, in Buenos Aires] Now we have a direct link—via satellite—with Paraguay. Natalio Aides is there. First, good evening, Natalio. We would like to know if there has been any news with regard to the possible involvement of Lebanese citizens in the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] bombing in Buenos Aires.

[Aides] Good evening, Rosario. I can tell you that interesting information on the investigation has been received here. The name of the Lebanese citizen who was reported to the police—and this represents an exclusive scoop—has actually become known. Four Lebanese and two Palestinians have actually been reported to the police.

We will now put on the screen the data on a Lebanese who has been reported to the police by a person living in Paraguay. The Lebanese actually is Munir 'Abd-al-Ra'uf, 32, with a terrorist record in the Middle East. He belongs to a Shiite group following Hizballah. The intelligence services in Ciudad del Este supplied this information to the Argentine courts.

I repeat that this is very valuable and significant information and you, Rosario, now have it exclusively for Argentina. Munir 'Abd-al-Ra'uf—this concrete data was supplied by the intelligence services in Ciudad del Este and already is in the hands of the Argentine courts.

I must point out that it was a woman who reported the four Lebanese and two Palestinians to the police. The woman changed residences today and she has received death threats. She is now in Paraguay.

This is very, very reliable information, from very reliable sources. It already is in the hands of the Argentine courts.

Obviously, Dr. Juan Jose Galeano will now have to take action and look into the possibility of interrogating this Lebanese citizen who is wanted by the Paraguayan police. It must be noted that this person would be charged with involvement in the AMIA bombing.

[Anchorman Franco Salomone in Buenos Aires] Right, Natalio. What about the activities of Judge Galeano's assistants in Paraguay?

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[Aides] They have left Paraguay for the Argentine Republic. According to information available to us, they have left for Peru, but I still have no accurate information with regard to what they would be investigating in Lima specifically, or in Peru.

I tell you something important, Franco. An important international mall in Ciudad del Este reportedly finances the terrorists who allegedly have sought shelter in this country.

It is important to point out that detained Lebanese Akram Farhat allegedly is very closely linked to a person who reportedly also supplied solid data on terrorist movements in this region and who allegedly warned the intelligence services and supplied the information that was released on 12 August in Argentina through communiques, warning the population about the possibility of terrorist actions that might take place in our country.

[Salomone] This was Natalio Aides, our Telefe Noticias man, reporting from the Canal 13 studio in Asuncion, Paraguay. Many thanks.

Bolivia

Sanchez Returns From Brazil, Explains Pipeline Accord

PY1908034194 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] The presidents of Brazil and Bolivia signed this morning the extension of the contract for the sale of Bolivian natural gas to Brazil.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Amalia Pando] Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada said, for obvious reasons, that he hopes to inaugurate the natural gas pipeline to Brazil in August 1997. After four days in Brazil, President Sanchez de Lozada was welcomed by a band. The members of his delegation who negotiated the new contract with him also returned. They looked tired but calm. In Brasilia, however, they were very nervous.

But what did they get in Brazil? According to President Sanchez de Lozada, Bolivia obtained a better contract than the one signed in February 1993. The first advantage is that all the decisions on the sale of the natural gas will be made equally between Bolivia and Brazil. In the contract signed 18 months ago, Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] made practically all the decisions on building the pipeline. Now there will be a committee with the same number of Bolivian and Brazilian representatives to make the decisions.

[Sanchez de Lozada] We hope we will get all the necessary financing for this project in the next 12 months to begin the project. And I hope, God willing, that before I conclude my administration, I will be able to open the pipeline valves in Sao Paulo.

[Pando] This contract allows a term of 12 months for the two countries to obtain the financing. The contract also defines the participation of the two countries in the project. This was the most difficult point of the negotiations because it was not included in the previous contract. On the Bolivian side, the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB] will keep control over 85 percent of the project, while Petrobras of Brazil will keep 15 percent. On the Brazilian side, Petrobras will get 80 percent and YPFB 20 percent. Let us recall that the original Brazilian proposal was to give Bolivia only 4 percent of the project. The percentage given to each state company will also be shared by their respective private partners. For example, YPFB reached an agreement with the U.S. company (Enrom) to share the investment and the shares in a relationship of 60 percent for YPFB and 40 percent for (Enrom).

[Sanchez de Lozada] The project we are talking about [words indistinct] is the gas pipeline. It does not include the thermoelectric projects in Puerto Suarez, Bolivia, and in Campo Grande, Sao Paulo, and possibly Curitiba in Brazil. This contract is restricted to the gas pipeline project in its first stage from Santa Cruz to Sao Paulo, and later further south.

[Pando] One-third of the pipeline will be in Bolivian territory; this segment will cost about $680 million. The remaining two-thirds will cost approximately $1.2 billion. These figures, however, can change significantly because President Sanchez de Lozada asserted that the issue involving the size of the diameter of the pipeline and the volume of the exportable natural gas can be reviewed.

[Sanchez de Lozada, in progress] ...and definitely because if the issue of volume is not discussed, if the size of the diameter is not set, the prize could not be established and the financing could not be obtained. This is why we believe that before the end of the year, these isues will be have to be defined.

[Pando] In the negotiations, Petrobras struggled stubbornly to maintain the conditions as they were under the administration of the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] and the ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action]; for example, the price of $.90 per thousand cubic feet, which is a price considered to be very low in comparison with the price Argentina is already paying Bolivia. The document signed this morning by the presidents of Bolivia and Brazil also eliminates all the secret clauses. The natural gas sales contract will be open to all the people and companies that want to know about it. [end recording]

Cuba's Robaina To Pay Two-Day Official Visit

PY1808152094 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 11 Aug 94 p 6

[Text] Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar has announced that Bolivia and Cuba will tighten relations

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and that Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina will visit Chile on 25 August for this purpose.

The minister invited Robaina to visit Bolivia at the meeting they held in Colombia last week, during the inauguration of Colombian President Ernesto Samper.

Aranibar said that during the two-day official visit of the Cuban minister they will discuss subjects of mutual interest to enhance exchanges at all levels.

He added that Robaina's visit falls within the framework of the agreements reached by Presidents Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada and Fidel Castro during the visit the Cuban leader paid to Bolivia in August 1993. The Bolivian Government seeks to promote cooperation and exchange with Cuba in the education and sports fields as well as bilateral trade.

COB Promotes 'Plan of Struggle' Against Government

PY1808223994 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 3 Aug 94 pp A1-A6

[Text] La Paz, 2 Aug (LOS TIEMPOS)—The Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] today (yesterday) called on all national labor and popular groups to promote a "large-scale social, civic and political movement" with the objective of "achieving greater well- being for the people" and showing President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada's administration that the labor class "is not willing to surrender its legitimate social, economic, and political claims." In view of this the COB proposed a 15-point "plan of struggle."

During a news conference held by COB First Secretary General Juan Chavez and COB Finance Secretary Carlos Camargo, the COB National Executive Committee summoned a national workers conference for 3 August in La Paz at 1530.

During the news conference the union leaders stated that the workers meeting will widely support the "social and civil resistance plan" drafted by the COB, which "will be immediately implemented nationwide against the dictatorial, arbitrary, and insensitive" government headed by the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] with the support of the MBL [Movement for a Free Bolivia] and the UCS [Solidarity Civic Union].

The COB Executive Committee also disclosed the conclusions of the internal seminar held last weekend in Coroico, Yungas, located 80 km from La Paz.

COB Finance Secretary Carlos Camargo provided the highlights of the extensive document, which manifests the COB's "definitive and official" position regarding the economic, political, and social measures implemented by the current Bolivian administration, which reads as follows:

1. One year since the coming into power of the government headed by the MNR, UCS, MRTKL [Tupac Katari Revolutionary Liberation Movement], and MBL, the living conditions of the people in general, and of the workers in particular, have not improved. On the contrary, unemployment, poverty, job instability, and the lack of opportunities are widespread.

2. To undertake a permanent struggle for the improvement of the living conditions of our members and the entire Bolivian nation.

3. To strengthen permanent resistance to the government's autocratic and authoritarian attitude, as expressed through the approval of laws without the mandatory national debate and the people's consensus.

4. To struggle for the fulfillment of the agreement signed by the government and the COB.

5. To permanently defend the implementation of a public and free educational system and an autonomous social security system based on the principles of solidarity, universality, and unity; and a public health and housing system that will safeguard social interests.

6. To struggle for an educational reform, on the basis of social consensus, that will improve the quality of education; acknowledging our diverse natural cultural and social heritage; and one that will take Bolivian men and women into the center of production and respect our indigenous cultures and peoples.

7. To safeguard our natural resources, the environment, and the rights of indigenous peoples and their multi-ethnic territories.

8. To struggle for the true participation of the people, without their becoming a tool for politics, and for the respect of established civilian and labor organizations, civic committees, and other traditional organizations.

9. To reject the poorly labeled capitalization, and to defend strategic public companies owned by the entire Bolivian people by improving the productive, technological, and administrative capacity of these companies.

10. To defend the rights and claims of peasants and farmers. To oppose the bill establishing the National Land Institute [Instituto Nacional de Tierras] (INTI), the Rural Registry Law, the Modernization Law, and the Agrarian Reform Law.

11. To wage an all-out struggle against drug trafficking, and to defend the legal production of coca.

12. To express resolute support for the unions, artisans, and retail businessmen. To struggle for the establishment of a law for the promotion of handicraft.

13. To wage an all-out struggle against corruption; to struggle for the dignity and sovereignty of the country.

Brazil

New IBOPE Poll Shows Widening Lead for Cardoso

PY1808172394 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 17 Aug 94 p 2

[Article from "Castello's Column" by Marcelo Pontes]

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[Text] The preliminary results, revealed yesterday, of a new IBOPE [Brazilian Public Opinion and Statistics Institute] poll on the presidential elections gives an 11-point advantage to Fernando Henrique Cardoso over Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. It would not be surprising if the results of a poll today were 12 points.

Cardoso's candidacy is gathering considerable steam throughout the entire country, according to not only IBOPE but also the Vox Populi polling company. IBOPE reports that Cardoso has surpassed Lula in Pernambuco, which was Lula's largest electoral support district. In Pernambuco, where Lula has the support of Miguel Arraes, candidate for governor, who has a wide lead in his state polls, Cardoso is winning by 35 percent against 31 percent for Lula.

In Bahia, where 45 days ago Lula was ahead by a difference of 42 points, Fernando Henrique Cardoso has also surpassed him with an advantage of one or two points, according to the poll, which was ordered by the Brazilian Social Democracy Party and whose results are still being analyzed by IBOPE. In Ceara, Cardoso has widened the gap with Lula thanks to the success of the Real Plan and to the popularity of gubernatorial candidate Tasso Jereissati. In Belo Horizonte, capital of the second largest Brazilian voting district, and which is governed by a PT [Workers Party] mayor, Cardoso has 51 percent of voters' preferences against 21 percent for Lula, according to the latest Vox Populi poll.

According to Marcos Coimbra, Vox Populi president and director, the wave of popularity that Fernando Henrique Cardoso began to enjoy, soon after the implementation of the real, in the large cities of the richest regions of the country is now reaching the medium and smaller cities of all regions.

Just after the implementation of the real, Fernando Henrique Cardoso's popularity was growing at an average of two points per week, according to Coimbra. Now it is growing by three points. Cardoso's prestige in the most remote parts of Sao Paulo and Minas Gerais can be verified only now, thanks to the real.

"If Fernando Henrique gains 16 points on Lula, Lula will definitely lose," says Coimbra. "If Fernando Henrique stands 15 or 16 points ahead of Lula, the elections will be decided in the first round," said Carlos Augusto Montenegro, IBOPE executive director.

This is the main subject at the moment. Is Fernando Henrique Cardoso's growing popularity enough for him to triumph in the first round? Montenegro does not think Lula will be able to reverse the situation.

"The important thing now is maintaining position," Montenegro said, in the jargon of electoral poll analysts. This means that it is first necessary to know Cardoso's maximum level of popularity, as well as Lula's minimum level. Montenegro gave an example: Fernando Henrique could reach 40 or 42 percent, and Lula could remain with 20 or 24 percent. The great doubt is whether this gap will be attained soon, and whether it can be maintained until the elections.

Whether or not Fernando Henrique Cardoso wins in the first voting round "is a question of inches," Montenegro said. "No new issues are going to come up, except those that have been foreseen. The latest was the free electoral programs on television. Fernando Henrique's program is the best, as Lula himself has acknowledged."

Does this mean that even President Itamar Franco, whose surprising reactions run true to his astrological sign of Cancer, will no longer be able to affect Cardoso? It would be very difficult for Franco to affect him, Montenegro says. "Fernando Henrique is now identified more strongly with the real than is Franco."

Marcos Coimbra said something similar, but in different words: "In order to harm Fernando Henrique the real must first be harmed." The fact is that not even Lula wants the Real Plan to fail, and much less the voters.

Montenegro added another hypothesis that could help Cardoso: The constructive vote, which could allow him to win outright in the first round. Although Montenegro does not believe in this possibility as strongly, he thinks it is probable that Cardoso will gain a wide distance from Lula and maintain it until the elections.

Notwithstanding, if the voters supporting the rest of the candidates decide to resort to a constructive vote, Montenegro views it as favorable for Cardoso: "The supporters of Eneas Carneiro have come from the blank votes, and they will return to the blank votes. The voters of Esperidiao Amin and Orestes Quercia could all vote for Fernando Henrique. Half of the voters of Brizola will vote for Fernando Henrique, and the other half for Lula."

Montenegro does not want to say it in public, but deep inside he is convinced that the elections have been already decided. "Between ourselves," Montenegro said, in a daring confidential tone, "do you know why the elections have already been decided? Because Brazilians are tired of so much confusion. We have lived through eight years of instability, with 50 or 80 percent inflation; we have had confiscations, CPI's [Congressional Investigating Committees], PC [P.C. Farias], and corruption, not to mention the increase of violence in the cities. People want calmness and stability. They want to be able to go to sleep and wake up in the morning with things remaining the same. Do you want to know what would be the easiest way to help Fernando Henrique win the elections in the first round? To organize labor strikes in September.

Cardoso Rejects Maciel's Campaign Strategy

PY1808181094 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 12 Aug 94 p 4

[Text] Fernando Henrique Cardoso yesterday said he does not agree with the strategy of unfairly encouraging

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northeastern mayors in an attempt to revert the favorable position Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (Workers Party) enjoys in the region. "That does not have my support, I do not endorse it," said Cardoso. The offensive in the northeastern region will be carried out by Senator Marco Maciel (PFL-Pe) [Liberal Front Party - Pernambuco], Cardoso's vice presidential candidate, who will tour 20 cities as of next week. In spite of Cardoso's disproval of the method, the trip was confirmed until yesterday. The idea of investing in the northeastern mayors came from the political command from the PSDB-PFL-PTB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party - Liberal Front Party - Brazilian Labor Party] alliance.

During his tour Maciel will promise the mayors government posts in exchange for votes. Cardoso rejected any link between this campaign strategy and the policy of you give to receive. "That is not my style, I work another way," he said.

Deputy Maurilio Ferreira Lima (PSDB-Pe), a candidate for the Senate, did not like Cardoso's reaction. "He is arrogant. It is a very natural thing," he said referring to the exchange of votes for favors. Ferreira said federal government actions will be essential to change the electoral trends in the northeast. As an example he mentioned that the Bank of Brazil would finance the agricultural harvest at 0.5 percent interest rate.

Beside "helping Cardoso's candidacy" with a separate tour, Maciel also intends to solve electoral problems mainly in Rio Grande do Norte and Paraiba States, where the local PFL and PSDB leaders are not in a good position. Based on internal polls, Cardoso's campaign organizers believe that only by obtaining more support in Bahia and Pernambuco it will be possible to surpass Lula in the northeast.

These two states are considered campaign bottlenecks. Cardoso's campaign organizers are relying on the prestige of Marco Maciel in Pernambuco and of Antonio Carlos Magalhaes in Bahia, to overcome them.

PMDB Leaders Organizing To Back Cardoso in Runoff

PY1808211994 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 12 Aug 94 p 3

[Article by Monica Dallari]

[Text] Sao Paulo—Those who are unhappy with the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] and worried about the performance of the presidential candidacy of Orestes Quercia are negotiating en bloc a movement to support Fernando Henrique Cardoso (PSDB) [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] in the second round of the elections. An influential PMDB politician from Sao Paulo yesterday confirmed that Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho (PMDB) and Fernando Henrique Cardoso had agreed on the subject during a dinner in Sao Paulo Government House last week. "That conversation never took place," Fleury said, despite the confirmation.

The objective is to avoid the desertion of PMDB members during the first round, which would weaken the PMDB's negotiating power. The thought is that support en bloc would increase the PMDB's prestige with the next administration, and even bring it cabinet posts. Besides this, it would give the party breathing space to recover from the imminent electoral defeat. Quercia's candidacy would have a honorable end.

Deputy Tarcisio Delgado (MG) [Minas Gerais], PMDB leader in the Chamber of Deputies, estimates that the PMDB will obtain 116 seats in the lower house and 18 in the Senate in the 3 October elections. If this is true, the PMDB would continue to be the largest bloc in Congress.

The following PMDB politicians are part of this movement: Senator Jose Sarney (AP) [Amapa], and the gubernatorial candidates for Mato Grosso do Sul, Wilson Martins; Rio Grande do Norte, Garibaldi Alves; and Rio Grande do Sul [RS] Antonio Britto. Also in the group were Senator Jose Fogaca (RS), PMDB President Deputy Luiz Henrique (SC) [Santa Catarina], Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho, and Deputy Germano Rigotto (RS).

According to the agreement approved by Martins, Britto, and Alves, the support for Fernando Henrique Cardoso would be expressed only in the second round. This does not mean, therefore, that the candidates who are not satisfied with Quercia will work for Cardoso. They will not simply abandon the party all of a sudden. The dispute now is to see who will inherit the remains of the PMDB. The dissidents, the largest anti-Quercia group, will attempt to stay in the party and fight for its control.

"We will not turn our backs on the party's problems, as if nothing has happened," Fogaca said. "By no means will we leave the PMDB," said the senator, who knows the power of Quercia. "Whatever the vote tally is, Quercia will continue to be the PMDB's main candidate," Fogaca added.

Another strong group in this dispute is that of Sarney. During a conversation that took place in Brasilia this week with Senator Ronan Tito (MG), Sarney said he would not support Quercia. Sarney intends to remain silent until 3 October, dedicated exclusively to his daughter Roseana's candidacy for the government of Maranhao State. Roseana (PFL) [Liberal Front Party] has the support of Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

In order not to be called a traitor, Sarney ordered his fellow party members to campaign in favor of Quercia only in the states where Quercia has control. "The PMDB of Maranhao and Amapa are with Quercia," Tito admits. Recife Mayor Jarbas Vasconcellos, who maintains strong links with the PMDB, is also part of this movement.

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Old Quercia allies do not hide their criticism of Quercia. According to an important national PMDB leader, who considers Quercia's campaign finished, Quercia made three mistakes: He argued with regional party leaders, isolated himself with a few faithful followers, and finally campaigned against the real. "The PMDB voted in favor of the real" in Congress, the PMDB leader said.

Ricupero Stresses Need for 'Structural Economic Reform'

PY1808212694 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Aug 94 p 30

[Text] Brasilia—Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero has asked his assistants to draft plans to deregulate the labor market and to reform the health, social security, and taxation systems. He wants to again launch, after the first voting round, the debate on structural reform of the economy, which was abandoned in face of the failure of the constitutional revision. Without identifying them specifically, Ricupero said that some measures do not require a constitutional amendment.

During a two-hour conference at the Space and Aeronautics Studies Center on 8 August, Ricupero said that these reforms were essential for the new national strategy that is beginning to gain strength with economic stability. He outlined the general profile of this strategy, which needs to harmonize the democracy of the masses with sustained economic development and at the same time pay the social debt of the country:

"The social problems of Brazil will not be solved by socialist idealism, which has not yielded positive results anywhere in the world. They will be solved through the creation of jobs," the minister said.

According to Ricupero, it is necessary to reduce social contributions, which increase labor costs and force companies to hire workers under illegal conditions. Beside this, it is necessary to abandon gigantic projects and "invest in small and medium-sized enterprises." Ricupero thinks that if these reforms are not approved, the country will enter into a serious crisis.

Ricupero said that the current social security and health systems will ruin the country: "The greatest problem I currently have is the health system. It is absolutely insatiable. The volume of funds it needs is beyond the government's capacity without generating inflation."

He stressed the need to make political alliances to implement the structural economic reforms. Whoever is elected must concentrate his efforts on attaining these reforms, and on forming a majority that will support him in Congress; otherwise it will not be possible to balance the figures of the 1996 budget, which will be without the Emergency Social Fund and the IPMF [Provisional Tax on Financial Operations].

Officials Warn Uruguay About Islamic Groups at Border

PY1908003994 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Brazil has alerted Uruguay about the possible action of radical Islamic groups in the southern part of Brazil. Journalist Alexandre Garcia reports live from Brasilia:

[Begin Garcia recording] Brazilian officials are examining a new lead in connection with the bomb attack perpetrated against the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association building in Buenos Aires a month ago, which claimed the lives of nearly 100 people. Suspicion has now shifted to the city of Chui, Rio Grande do Sul State, in the southern part of Brazil, at the border with Uruguay.

Part of Chui is in Uruguay and part of it is in Brazil. It is easy to reach Buenos Aires from Chui by sea, and thereby avoid border controls.

Brazilian Government officials have indications of the presence of members of Amal, Hizballah, and Party for Islamic Unification there, and discovered a point of distribution of military weapons such as M-16 and AR-15 rifles, grenades, and even rocket launchers. The distribution center is owned by an Arab citizen who resides on the Uruguayan side. Thus, concerned Brazilian officials have just warned the Uruguayan officials about this discovery. [end recording]

Foreign Consortium Chosen for Building Gas Pipeline

PY1808020194 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2030 GMT 14 Aug 94

[By Tania Malheiros]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 14 Aug (AE)—The executive board of Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] today reported that it chose the BTB consortium for jointly developing the Brazil-Bolivia natural gas project. The BTB consortium is made up of Australia's Broken Hill Proprietary Petroleum (BHP), U.S. Tenneco, and England's British Gas. Petrobras thus completed one of the stages of the strategy for implementation of the project. Petrobras also established the participation of Brazilian private enterprises and of Bolivian Government Oil Deposits (YPFB) as partners of the enterprise that will implement the project. The estimated cost of the Brazil-Bolivia gas pipeline is $2 billion.

The Brazil-Bolivia natural gas project provides for creation of an enterprise, 51 percent of whose capital will be owned by Petrobras, while the remaining 49 percent will be distributed between the BTB consortium, YPFB, and private Brazilian enterprises, whose names were not released. Bolivia's natural gas will be supplied to southern and southeastern Brazil as of 1997, as is provided for in the project's original timetable, Petrobras has reported.

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The BTB consortium and Petrobras will assign human and financial resources for importing natural gas from Bolivia, in keeping with a contract signed by Petrobras and YPFB. In an official note released at 1500 today, the executive board of Petrobras reported that "the objective of the partnership is to obtain data, information, proposals, and plans for financing, building, operating, and maintaining the Brazil-Bolivia gas pipeline."

The contract signed by Petrobras and YPFB will guarantee, initially, the provision of 8 million cubic meters of gas per day, reaching 16 million cubic meters per day in seven years, to be supplied to Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Mato Grosso, Parana, Santa Catarina, Rio Grande do Sul, and Minas Gerais, which represent 80 percent of Brazil's industrial projects.

In this week's "Petrobras News" bulletin, the Brazilian company admits that the deadline for financing the project was moved to a later date, pointing out, however, that this will not delay the project's timetable, and that the Bolivian natural gas will be supplied to Sao Paulo in 1997.

Petrobras added that the documents calling for offers for building the Brazil-Bolivia gas pipeline will be published in November 1994 and that the work will begin in the first half of 1995. Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada should arrive in Brazil this week to talk about the project directly with President Itamar Franco.

At the beginning of this month, British Gas created a Brazilian subsidiary—the British Gas do Brasil Ltda—to participate in the project. The British firm operates in the areas of exploration, prospecting, and distribution of natural gas. Efforts were made to find Petrobras President Joel Mendes Renno to ask him how the enterprises were picked, but he was not at his home in Niteroi (Rio de Janeiro).

Franco, Bolivia's Sanchez Sign Gas Pipeline Accord

PY1908020094 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2147 GMT 18 Aug 94

[By Tania Monteiro]

[Text] Brasilia, 18 Aug (AE)—After two days of intensive negotiations, Brazilian President Itamar Franco and Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada today signed at Planalto Palace an addendum to an agreement signed earlier for the construction of a gas pipeline between the two countries. In remarks to reporters, Brazilian Mines and Energy Minister Alexis Stepanenko admitted that the Brazilian Government may revise the price and volume of the natural gas to be supplied by Bolivia if a significant rise in demand takes place.

The addendum extends for 12 months the validity of the initial agreement for transporting the gas from Bolivian territory to Sao Paulo beginning in 1977. The cost of the project is estimated at $4 billion. Expecting that there will be a growing demand, the Brazilian Government already started studies to widen the diameter of the pipeline from 28 to 32 inches. The initial agreement provided for the sale of 8 million cubic meters of gas per day. This volume could increase to 12 million cubic meters per day. The price of $0.90 per million of BTU could also be revised in case the volume of gas to be purchased increases.

The addendum also provides for the distribution of shares to the companies involved in the construction and operation of the pipeline. Regarding the Brazilian segment, the Brazilian Petroleum Company (Petrobras) will keep 51 percent of the shares; the consortium BTB (made up of the U.S. company Tenneco, the Australian BHP Power, and British Gas), 25 percent; the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits (YPFB), 20 percent; and Brazilian private groups, 4 percent. Regarding the Bolivian segment, YPFB will hold 85 percent, and Petrobras and the BTB consortium will share the remaining 15 percent.

Upon emphasizing the successful negotiations conducted between the two countries, Sanchez de Lozada praised the role of natural gas in promoting sustained development in South American countries. He went as far as criticizing Brazilians by noting that there is no awareness in Brazil about the importance of natural gas. Stepanenko reacted swiftly by conceding that there may not be such awareness in large cities, but that political and business leaders of the interior of the states of Sao Paulo, Mato Grosso, and Mato Grosso do Sul are eagerly hoping that this project will materialize. Stepanenko said: "This project will promote development in the central-western region."

Sanchez de Lozada took the occasion to stress the need to reverse the trade balance between Bolivia and Brazil, which is clearly favorable to Brazil. He noted that Bolivia sells $18 million worth to Brazil, while it purchases $430 million worth. He added: "We have to reverse this imbalance and thus narrow the current gap."

Efforts To Coordinate Mercosur Viewed

PY1808132894 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 8 Aug 94 pp 1, 6

[Article by Cynthia Malta, from Buenos Aires] txt
[Excerpt] The governments and enterprises of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay have the next five months to adapt their national policies and business strategies to the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] economic environment. The opening of Mercosur is confirmed for 1 January 1995, and its four partners are racing against the clock to install this new market, which is a mixture of a duty-free zone and a partial customs union.

In sunny, yet cold, Buenos Aires on 5 August, Presidents Itamar Franco (Brazil), Carlos Menem (Argentina), Juan Carlos Wasmosy (Paraguay), and Luis Alberto Lacalle (Uruguay), signed 40 technical resolutions and 9 political decisions giving shape to Mercosur, a market of

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approximately 200 million inhabitants with a GDP of some $800 billion. The ceremony was attended by Chilean President Eduardo Frei and Bolivian Vice President Victor Hugo Cardenas, whose countries expect to be the next Mercosur members.

There were hard negotiations into the early hours of each day last week at the headquarters of the Argentine National Bank, an impressive building next to the Casa Rosada on the corner of the famous Plaza de Mayo. As some negotiators told this newspaper, there is still a lot to do.

Jorge Campbell, the Argentine undersecretary for commercial integration, said on 7 August that "the most important task still is to begin the talks to create institutions with decisionmaking power. How will we make our future decisions? By vote? By consensus? We do not yet know, but we will talk about it during this second half of the year." Lacking an institutional organ empowered to evaluate rules and make decisions—like the European Commission, which is the executive authority of the EU—the Mercosur partners created a commission of commerce.

The commission will be coordinated by the foreign ministries of the four countries. Its main task will be to study practical problems that will certainly arise; from accusations of "dumping" to bureaucratic restraints at the borders.

The commission's first meeting is scheduled for 1 October. Jose Arthur Denot Medeiros, the Itamaraty official in charge of Mercosur affairs, on 5 August considered one of the sensitive issues that the commission will have to address as of 1 January: the value that each country attaches to its merchandise for customs tariff purposes. Denot Medeiros explained that it would be useless for the four countries to have negotiated a Common External Tariff—which will be charged to countries outside the bloc—for almost 90 percent of their products, if they have different systems to evaluate such products. "The tariff may be 5 percent in all four countries but if a product is worth $100 in Brazil while another partner values the same product at $50, it is useless to set a common tariff," he said.

Brazil and Argentina, which have the same merchandise valuation system approved by the GATT, are already organizing training programs for Paraguayan and Uruguayan customs officials. Despite this, nothing can prevent the smaller Mercosur partners from adopting other systems. Paraguay has recently endorsed the GATT code and has 18 months to enforce the new system. Uruguay has not even joined GATT. [as published]

No decision has been made on the treatment for export and import of cars and sugar, which have been traditionally protected, especially in Brazil and Argentina. A special working group to be created by the four partners should establish new rules by 15 October. Brazilian entrepreneurs operating in Argentina expect substantial growth in their deals.

Waltirio da Silva Nogueira, vice president of General Motors de Argentina SA, estimates that the factory in Cordoba—some 1,000 km from the capital—will produce 25,000 pickup trucks in 1995, 18,000 of which will be exported to Brazil. Under a current bilateral agreement, Argentina cam import a like number of vehicles from General Motors do Brasil.

Da Silva was especially satisfied to learn that as of January 1995 Argentina will no longer charge its statistical tax—10 percent on vehicles and 3 percent on spares—from Brazil. "We hope to transfer this gain to Argentine consumers," he said.

The elimination by Argentina of the statistical tax on imports within Mercosur as of January 1995 is part of the package of resolutions the four presidents signed on 5 August. [passage omitted]

Germany Removes Country From Nuclear 'H List'

PY1808204894 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] According to Itamaraty, Germany announced yesterday that Brazil had been taken off of the "H List"; that is, the list of countries that are prohibited from receiving sensitive technology. Brazil may now purchase nuclear items and technology for civilian and military use. Nuclear energy will be exclusively used for peaceful purposes.

Chile

Minister Discusses Government Performance

PY1808140294 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 31 Jul 94 pp 8-9

[Interview with Minister Secretary General of Government Victor Manuel Rebolledo by Maria Eugenia Oyarzun on 26 July in Santiago]

[Excerpts] [Oyarzun] How would you evaluate the first four and a half months of this administration?

[Rebolledo] Very positive. I am aware that in some sectors of the political class there is a microclimate who see deficiencies in the government. The government is guaranteeing what the country expects from the administration; ability, stability, and fluid relations with the opposition, the Armed Forces, businessmen, and workers. There is a very high level of political initiative in the Foreign, Defense, Justice, and Economy Ministries. I believe the economic achievements are better than expected in a year where necessary changes and an adjustment policy were visualized.

I also believe the government has channeled and handled well the social conflicts. This happened with the coal workers, teachers, municipal health workers, and the claims made by the United Labor Confederation (CUT).

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[Oyarzun] Would you say "nothing is happening" in this government?

[Rebolledo] No way. I have tried to interpret the psychosis created—not among the people but among the political class—and I believe we are becoming accustomed to stability, which could be interpreted as "nothing is happening." This is a country where there are no dramatic problems or dramatic solutions. There is low uncertainty, great hopes for the future, and civilized management of the "conflictual" political and social issues.

[Oyarzun] What mistakes do you recognize?

[Rebolledo] Obviously we are not perfect. In the first phase of this administration, we had to face the [Carabineros Chief General Rodolfo] Stange crisis, when we were installing ourselves as the government and the more or less intense "conflictual" social emergency for a few weeks during a period of adjustment. We are overcoming this situation, and this is shown in the way we handle social conflicts and how the government is implementing different aspects of the national policy. The positive aspect of the government, which sometimes has not been valued sufficiently, is its ability to make poverty, education, and honesty into national issues through the creation of commissions for their study. I disagree with criticism against these commissions. It is important to create commissions around national issues involving the country's social, and political circles in this effort because this adds effectiveness and viability to the measures to be taken on these issues.

[Oyarzun] You said that at the beginning of the administration the government had to face the "Stange crisis." Was this not provoked by the government itself by intervening in a judicial-police problem?

[Rebolledo] This problem was not created by the government. If you look at the cause-effect relationship, the problem emerged from the sentence of Judge Juica at the end of a 10-year investigation into a very cruel crime which was perhaps one of the worst human right violations during the military government. Whether we like it or not, the investigation proved that Carabineros personnel committed that crime and that the then Carabineros high command—whose deputy chief was Gen. Stange—were involved in accusations made to the military court.

[Oyarzun] But Stange resigned at that time and was later confirmed in his position ...

[Rebolledo] But Judge Juica's sentence was made now ...

[Oyarzun] But Gen. Stange put his position in the hands of then President Patricio Aylwin and Aylwin confirmed him.

[Rebolledo] No, as far as I remember Stange did not submit his resignation to the then President Aylwin. This case is related to the sentence that ended the judicial investigation, it was not a government action.

[Oyarzun] The Supreme Court unanimously confirmed that Gen. Stange did not commit a crime and that he did not fail to fulfill its military duties. Therefore, Stange has the constitutional right to remain as Carabineros general director.

[Rebolledo] There is no doubt about it ... he has that right.

[Oyarzun] Why is he then being harassed by the government?

[Rebolledo] I did not say the government is harassing him.

[Oyarzun] Is it not harassment not being allowed to make an institutional visit to Peru?

[Rebolledo] Absolutely not, this is a question of strictly legal jurisdiction and rights. Service commissions must be approved by the defense minister based on the merit of each case. The minister is not obliged to grant every permit submitted.

[Oyarzun] Is it not harassment not allowing police officers to travel abroad for training?

[Rebolledo] The defense minister's position was quite adequate, especially now that we are talking about honesty. You are referring to an invitation by a helicopter manufacturer to train Carabineros personnel by flying some units. The defense minister said it was not correct, and I fully agree with him, to authorize courses when they are paid—for obvious reasons—by the manufacturer.

[Oyarzun] Was the harsh protest note from the Club of Retired Generals over the decision not allowing Gen. Stange to travel an indication of uneasiness among the Carabineros?

[Rebolledo] I believe the retired Carabineros generals of that club may be annoyed, but I have no information that the Carabineros as an institution are annoyed with the government. On the contrary, we get the feeling through the permanent, regular, and adequate operation of the coordination organizations that institutional relations between Carabineros and the executive branch are unchanged.

[Oyarzun] Would you say, with your hand on your heart, that Government-Carabineros relations are normal?

[Rebolledo] They are normal and their adequate function is guaranteed. Every institution is fulfilling its role, preserving public order, and enforcing the law. It is obvious that from the practical point of view, the fact that General Stange was kept as head of the institution—I always say this so there is no doubt over his right which is guaranteed by the Constitution—against the wishes of the government. This creates a situation that would not exist if the police chief were another officer.

[Oyarzun] Why?

[Rebolledo] For obvious reasons.

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[Oyarzun] Are relations not quite normal?

[Rebolledo] No, but they are marked by an obvious situation ...

[Oyarzun] By cool relations, would you say?

[Rebolledo] I would not say cool, but obviously it would be different if the officer who heads the police had the endorsement of the government.

[Oyarzun] If it were General Fernando Cordero for example?

[Rebolledo] I am not saying that, I am talking in general terms. This aspect of institutionality is serious. I believe no one, with his hand on his heart and thinking of the smooth functioning of the country, would deny that it would be desirable, better, and logical—as in all civilized countries of the world—if the chief of state or government had the right to change the police chief.

[Oyarzun] Do you believe that if Stange were to agree to leave, because the president does not want him, it would set a bad precedent for the Armed Forces and the Carabineros as institutions?

[Rebolledo] No.

[Oyarzun] Would it twist the nose of the Constitution?

[Rebolledo] No.

[Oyarzun] Why not?

[Rebolledo] Because the law granting the president the right to appoint commanders has existed for a long time in our laws. It existed in the 1925 Constitution; it ruled under presidents of different political and ideological beliefs. Experience has shown that it was a right that was always exercised with responsibility, and never violated the interests of the Armed Forces.

[Oyarzun] This entails a constitutional reform. Why not submit it for congressional consideration?

[Rebolledo] While it is openly backed by society, it is not backed by Congress. The exercise of presidential power will become more viable whenever the country progress away from the period in which the Armed Forces were the government and faced conflictive situations.

[Oyarzun] The executive branch will not submit this bill to Congress because it knows it lacks a majority for its approval. Does this mean the government will allow the Carabineros director general to remain in his post?

[Oyarzun] That is well documented, and I accept it.

[Rebolledo] But you have just said you would prefer an officer chosen by the government...

[Rebolledo] I did not say that, I want to be very careful in this. I said it is not the same for the police to be headed by a person whom the administration believes should not continue to hold this post, when it could be headed by another officer.

[Oyarzun] Does this also mean the administration believes it right for General Augusto Pinochet to be Army commander?

[Rebolledo] The administration sticks to the facts. Gen. Pinochet is the Army commander by a constitutional right. I believe government ties with the Army commander are developing well. [passage omitted]

[Oyarzun] You said the administration will not submit a bill to Congress to request the removal of the Armed Forces and Carabineros commanders.

[Rebolledo] For the time being...

[Oyarzun] Because it is not viable...

[Rebolledo] Do you believe a constitutional reform bill is viable if the opposition, at least the Independent Democratic Union (UDI), has said it will vote against it?

[Oyarzun] Do you believe one way of luring the opposition to vote for this bill would be to eliminate appointed senators and replace them with an equal number of elected senators?

[Rebolledo] Until 1973, the Senate had 50 members. If appointed senators are eliminated we will again have a very small Senate. This is why it is better to subject these appointed senator seats to the citizens' vote so that each region may have a better distribution of Senate seats and adequate representativity.

[Oyarzun] Will this solve the problem of parties that have too many legislative candidates?

[Rebolledo] No, the principle of the people's sovereignty is essential in a democratic system. It is not a financial estimate or a question of political partisan interests. [passage omitted]

[Oyarzun] Is it true that there have been coordinating problems among cabinet members; between the defense and interior ministers on the Carabineros case; between the foreign relations and finance ministers on NAFTA; and that you disagree with Interior Minister German Correa regarding the government spokesman position and government policies?

[Rebolledo] No, that is not true. On the contrary, over the past few days we have discussed this syndrome which appeared within the political class and which converted it into an "issue." We have established very specific work routines and spend many hours together. There is no margin for lack of coordination. Cabinet members in charge of political affairs (Interior Minister German Correa; Secretary General of the Presidency Genaro Arriagada; Secretary General Victor Rebolledo; Defense Minister Edmundo Perez Yoma; and Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa) meet on Mondays. I believe, therefore,

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that faced with a lack of any substantial issues to criticize it, this intangible situation is being used to oppose the government. When the government has a political statement to make, I personally go down to the press room to state what the government needs to communicate. I can frankly say there is a psychosis but it is not being promoted by us. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Ministers Urge Venezuela To Reactivate Trade

PA1808153894 Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 12 Aug 94 p 3-B

[Text] Colombia has urged Venezuela to reactivate the flow of commerce between the two countries. This flow has come to a standstill because exchange control measures adopted recently by the government of President Rafael Caldera.

In a letter sent by Guillermo Perry Rubio and Daniel Mazuera Gomez, respectively the Colombian finance and trade ministers, to Venezuelan Finance Minister Julio Sosa, the administration of Ernesto Samper reiterated the need for Venezuela to adjust internal exchange mechanisms so that Colombian exports do not continue facing obstacles.

On the day of President Samper's inauguration, Colombian officials expressed their concerns to Sosa. In light of the serious problem, however, the officials have deemed it prudent to put these in writing.

The letter indicates that the new administration assigns a lot of importance to "Colombian-Venezuelan economic integration and particularly the strengthening of bilateral trade, which has had a special dynamism in the past few years, so much so that Venezuela is the second-ranking market for Colombian secondary exports and Colombia is the largest market for Venezuelan nonpetroleum exports."

"The Colombian Government has a special interest in the reactivation of the flow of commerce between the two countries and particularly that of Colombian exports, which have been obviously affected by the operational setbacks created by exchange control measures established in Venezuela during the latter part of July."

The officials reiterated possible solutions originally proposed on 29 July by then Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos.

As mechanisms for financing and paying for the new operations, it was proposed that the Colombian Bank of Foreign Trade—Bancoldex—is willing to offer financing to the new export operations as long as they are channeled through the Mutual Payment Agreement of ALADI [Latin American Integration Association]. In order to do this, it is absolutely necessary to exempt Colombian exports from the mechanism of previous assignment of foreign currency imposed by Decree 268 of 1991.

To facilitate the payment of pending debts, Bancoldex is offering a mechanism that makes it necessary to speed up the acknowledgment of the private commercial debt in favor of Colombian exporters by the Exchange Management Council so as to enable Venezuelan commercial banks to grant credits to importers with Bancoldex resources.

As a complementary mechanism, it is important to study the possibility that Colombian exporters might be paid in bolivares.

Rebels Dynamite Bus; 18 Dead, 2 Injured

PA1908044394 Paris AFP in Spanish 0414 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 18 Aug (AFP)—At least 18 people were killed and two injured Thursday in Choco Department, northwestern Colombia, when guerrillas dynamited an inter-city bus, radio networks reported. Subofficer Gabriel Mosquera, commander of the police garrison at Tado, 700 km from Santa Fe de Bogota, near where the attack occurred, told RCN radio that the rebels blew up the bus by mistake, believing it was transporting soldiers.

Government's Social Program Detailed

PA1808163794 Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 11 Aug 94 p 6B

[Text] Yesterday the Samper administration launched its Social Solidarity Network program. This program will initially benefit 3 million of the 12 million Colombians who live below the poverty line. It is an aggressive cash program designed for families that do not have access to housing, education, health, or public services.

The first phase of the program will distribute 689.152 billion pesos and will be in effect until the latter part of 1995. Of this amount, 557.754 billion pesos will be used between August and December 1994 and 557.754 million pesos will be used in 1995.

The government has also taken steps to obtain a $500-million credit from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to be used exclusively in the Social Solidarity Network program. Those resources will be complemented with funding from the national budget, the national cofinancing system, and allotments from municipalities and departments.

"We are going to prove we can grow and develop and at the same time improve our people's lives," President Ernesto Samper said yesterday in unveiling the social program's immediate plans.

Decent Housing

In housing and urban development, President Samper said they would speed up granting individual subsidies

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to a million families who do not have decent housing, water, or electricity services. This program will be complemented with the endowment, in cooperation with the municipalities, of 1,700 recreation and sports parks in low-income areas and cultural centers in popular areas in the cities.

In education, a school bond will be set up for the children of poor mothers who are heads of household; 15,000 children a year are expected to benefit from this. Through this, the children will be able to attend grammar school. This will help significantly reduce illiteracy.

Destitute or crippled elderly will have a direct government subsidy that will help them survive. They will also have access to the complete social security program. The objective is to help 240,000 destitute elderly over 65 years old.

Healthy Children

The government will simultaneously provide mother-infant attention that will cover approximately 400,000 mothers who are breast-feeding children under a year old. Likewise, health and nutrition services will be afforded to 89,000 minors.

In order that the program become more permanent, the family well-being community homes will be strengthened by improving and increasing the nutritional value of their daily rations. The government will also establish food bonds for children who are not currently covered by the Colombian Family Well-Being Institute in selected rural areas.

The president explained that with these measures, more than a million children will have better conditions for health and growth.

One of the Social Solidarity Network's fundamental and immediate goals is to create jobs in both the urban and rural areas. The municipalities and several public organizations have joined resources to further this end.

In the countryside, an emergency program will create 110,000 direct jobs in regional social projects. An equal number of jobs will be offered in the cities by reinforcing development projects and completing unfinished projects.

There will be 123,000 scholarships for low-income unemployed high school students. This benefit will be equivalent to half the minimum wage, and the young beneficiaries will be able to take training courses at Sena [National Apprenticeship Service].

Overall, the Social Solidarity Network program includes eight programs in its first phase. The goal is that by the end of Samper's term, approximately 1 percent of the GNP will be used to take care of this percentage of low-income Colombians.

"With a new, modern, efficient, and comprehensive social policy, we will enable benefits of the economic opening to reach all Colombians," President Samper underscored. He added that with this social strategy, the needs of 12 million poor Colombians, who traditionally have not been included in social programs, will be covered.

In order to avoid delays and setbacks that could hinder the program's objectives, the program will be managed by the Presidency of the Republic and will be directly under the head of state, said the president. "With this initiative, the government's efforts will be geared to improving the living conditions of that 33 percent of the Colombian population that suffers critical housing, health, education, and public services conditions and that requires that action be directed toward them exclusively because they have been removed from the agenda of government organizations," he insisted.

Reorganized Expenses

Because of doubts about the availability of budget resources needed to implement the social program, National Planning Chief Jose Antonio Ocampo asserted that 1994 expenses are being reorganized. The 1995 investment allotments will also be reviewed to give priority to social development. He said also that Social Solidarity Network strategies will be included in the development program that will be discussed by Conpes [National Council For Economic and Social Policy] in August.

President Samper observed that the programs will be implemented in an integrated manner and with direct cooperation from the regions until a true solidarity network is formed that will integrate and protect the most vulnerable households in our country.

"In the first phase, the government aims to benefit more than 3 million Colombians through direct action. Thus, for the first time our people will feel the friendly hand of a government that they have traditionally perceived as remote and totally aloof from their suffering and needs," he stated.

Ecuador

Foreign Minister Criticizes Embargo on Cuba

PA1908034894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0041 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Quito, 18 Aug (EFE)—Foreign Minister Diego Paredes today made a veiled criticism of the U.S. embargo against Cuba hours before the arrival in Quito of his Cuban counterpart Roberto Robaina, who will be in Ecuador on a four-day official visit.

In addition to reiterating that Ecuador is taking part in efforts to improve Cuba's foreign relations, Paredes said, "the need exists for the United States to understand the

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importance of working together toward a solution so that one day the American family can live in a complete and genuine democracy."

Paredes added that Ecuador, "just like the rest of the Latin American nations, is interested in participating in the process of Cuba's reincorporation into the life of the continent to achieve closer cooperation among its members."

"That calls for," he added, "the strengthening of democratic life and the changes that are taking place in the Caribbean country."

The Ecuadoran foreign minister also said, "all of the ambassadors stationed in my country will tell our visitor about their efforts to help Cuba rejoin the life of our continent." [passage omitted]

Peru

Daily Assesses Recent Cuban Crisis

PY1808183794 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 10 Aug 94 p A2

[Editorial: "The New Cuban Crisis"]

[Text] Recent anti-Castro protests in Cuba need to be carefully assessed to avoid any hasty conclusions about an eventual outcome of the Havana regime.

It is true that street demonstrations cannot be overlooked or minimized because they constitute an obvious expression of the people's discontent regarding a socioeconomic crisis caused by clearly identifiable material factors: the definitive suspension of subsidies and privileged trade treatment by former soviet countries, and the international commercial blockade.

Then there is the political factor because Castroism has been completely unable to reconvert or adapt itself to a global context in which Marxist-Leninist governments are internationally rejected and because attempts to uphold a conceptual and functional autarchy are inevitably destined to fail. So much so that in addition to the disappearance of European communist regimes (or the so-called "real socialism"), even the PRC has been compelled to opt for a unique opening model described as "Socialist Market Economy."

A series of very delicate and persistent problems are the reason for the most recent incidents in today's Cuba. On one hand, Cuban Government officials have acknowledged that the domestic economy has deteriorated so badly that they have gone from an emergency system to one of virtual subsistence. On the other hand, an inflexible political power obstructs an indispensable liberalization of society while repression of all forms of organized opposition and human rights violations persist.

Nevertheless, it is still premature to announce the fall of Castroism at this time. The old revolution has undoubtedly extended the political status quo through the internal support of various sectors that are still not convinced of the need to implement an unscheduled change. In addition, Castro enjoys an odd foreign support of western investors in specific areas like tourism, which allows him to continue to support (although minimally) an economy which has been described as in the process of a definitive collapse.

Meanwhile, the Havana government has threatened the United States that it will authorize the immigration of hoards of exiles. This could create a complex situation in the southern United States with the arrival of as many as 1 million people within a couple of days. This is why Castro has stated that "Cuba is not a U.S. border guard."

Moreover, it is very unlikely that there will be more demonstrations under the present circumstances, particularly now that the Haitian military invasion has been postponed in view of the White House's obvious need to consult the steps it will take with Latin American countries which do not support this kind of solution.

We, of course, believe it is inappropriate to downplay the incidents that have been described by experts as the most serious to have occurred in Cuba since the start of the Revolution. We are thus compelled to follow very carefully the development of such a delicate issue, the prospects of which, lead to only one end: the definitive decline of Castroism and the advent of a different political regime.

Reporter Evaluates Haitian Situation

PY1808212294 Lima CARETAS in Spanish 4 Aug 94 pp 22, 23

[Article by Fernando Rospigliosi from the "Controversies" column: "Haiti: The Final Hour"]

[Text] The UN Security Council resolution and the stubborness of the Haitian military leaders who are desperately holding on to power seem to announce the long delayed outcome: The invasion of the afflicted island by the U.S. troops.

The majority of the Latin American governments, and presumably also the people of this hemisphere, are against the military intervention for various reasons. First, they don't want to legitimize the U.S. right to invade a country whenever it feels like it. Now it is Haiti, but it could be any other country in the future. This is why almost all countries oppose the intervention.

The second reason is what is known as the "black history" of the U.S. interventions in the continent. In fact, for many years the United States sent troops to shamelessly defend the economic interests of the large U.S. corporations or the anticommunist policies of other governments. The result was almost always the installation of repressive and corrupt dictatorships which were repudiated by their own people.

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Some things, however, are different today. The United States has no economic interest in that impoverished Caribbean country, at least not an interest that would justify the cost of an invasion. And it does not intend to impose a bloody and repressive military dictatorship; on the contrary, it intends to overthrow it.

There are certainly other interests. To prevent the wave of refugees arriving on the coasts of Florida is one of them. To cut one of the drug trafficking routes that comes through Haiti may be another reason. And of course, yet another reason clearly may be to put an end to the dictatorship and install a democratic regime, which is, from Washington's current point of view, the most effective way for any country to achieve stability and progress.

Those who oppose the invasion often use a sensationalist argument that lacks content. Why can the United States invade Haiti and not the ex-Yugoslavia, for example? The reason is very simple and practical. The Haitian army can be easily defeated, but not the Serb army. The idea of invading a country that has a relatively powerful military force and the support of the population for a guerrilla war and sabotage is a price the United States would not be willing to pay unless its vital interests are really at stake. And this is not currently the case in any part of the world.

In sum, in the case of Haiti, the two conditions for its invasion exist: There are suffient reasons, and it is possible do it without paying a very high price. The benefits are not all that great, but the costs are low.

The problem is what will happen after the invasion. It is much easier to impose a dictatorship than to restore democracy. That is a strong argument that Bill Clinton faces in his country. Many fear that the occupation may have to be lengthy and that, in the long run, nothing much will change. What is more, there is not much confidence in the capability of President Jean Bertrand Aristide, who was overthrown in 1991 and may be reinstated in his post.

However, the latest U.S. intervention did not go too badly. Manuel Antonio Noriega was arrested and taken to the United States to be tried for drug trafficking, the corrupt Panamanian Army was dissolved, and President-elect Guillermo Endara was installed. The last Panamanian elections held in May were the most open elections in Panamanian history.

The U.S. invasion created the necessary conditions for the consolidation of democracy in Panama. An intervention does not guarantee this, but it may create favorable conditions for democratization. Had it not been for the intervention, Noriega would probably still be running Panama as his farm and the people would be paying the consequences.

The fact that the Canal was the U.S. Government's main concern does not change matters.

The results in Haiti may be more complicated than in Panama, and this is not because it has a stronger Army. It is much easier to defeat that Army—Raoul Cedras' 7,000 men would not offer too much resistance—than to build democracy where it has never existed. This is especially true in a country that not only does not have democratic political traditions, but also lacks an economy that can sustain a stable political system.

But this is also an argument in favor of an invasion. Without an invasion it is hard to imagine how a hungry, illiterate, disorganized nation can free itself from a group of armed criminals in uniform that runs the country as it wishes.

In other words, if Cedras and his group are not removed by force, the Haitian tragedy may last forever.

In sum, an invasion, usually undesirable and dangerous, is a radical measure that does not always guarantee positive results. But in the case of Haiti, it seems the only chance of getting rid of a dictatorship and trying to build a reasonable country, different from the one whose inhabitants would rather sail in precarious rafts through shark-infested Caribbean waters than stay and die of hunger or a beating by the Ton-Tons Macoutes.

Columnist: Invasion Will Not Solve Haitian Poverty

PY1808172694 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 5 Aug 94 p 6

[Article from the Observer column by Mirko Lauer: "Haiti: Thinking it Over"]

[Text] The invasion of Haiti has become an unpopular cause since the U.S. apparatus started the ball rolling. Arguments against invasion are varied but they all maintain that Raoul Cedras is a minor aspect of the problem. It is yet to be seen whether UN support for the operation will prevail over opposition by Latin American governments.

The strongest opposition comes from the U.S. citizens themselves, who do not see how the United States can benefit from a military solution to the political problem of reinstating constitutional president Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power. As an editorial in THE NEW YORK TIMES stated: "An invasion will not create a feasible political system in Haiti."

Just like the previous U.S. invasion of Haiti (1915-1931), it may be easier to enter than to leave that country. We must never forget that Papa Doc Duvalier was, to a great extent, U.S.-made. It is also true that if Bill Clinton does not enter Haiti now, he will greatly contribute to the loss of credibility in his policy for the global defense of democracy and human rights.

Clinton's critics maintain that the invasion would just be a way to cover up the failure of the current sanctions and blockade against Haiti, which allegedly only contributes

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to the further impoverishment of the Haitian people while the dictatorship continues to grow rich. If this is the case, the belief of the rightist sector of the Republican Party may be used to justify an invasion for state reasons.

The main arguments of Latin American countries are: The inappropriateness of the use of force (even, and sometimes above all, to restore democracy); nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other countries; and the belief that there is still a peaceful path for the Haitian case.

Latin America could convert Cedras's Haiti into a new version of the Sandinist Nicaragua (where the military were forced to participate in the electoral process) rather than a version of Noriega's Panama (where the military separated themselves from the complex continental systems for legitimate elections).

If the invasion does not take place, Clinton could drop the Haitian problem in the laps of the Latin American governments. This would be like a new version of the Contadora and Support Groups, that in the 1980's used the threat of an invasion on Nicaragua to negotiate the holding of elections with the Sandinists. This time there are no volunteers for this task.

Nobody has proposed any political solutions for Haiti where 70 percent of the people are poor. Solutions are necessary whether the invasion does or not take place. The problem is that a return to democracy these days does not mean there will be the necessary funds to maintain it.

Uruguay

Syrian Consulate Entered; Espionage Suspected

PY1808153294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1351 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Montevideo, 17 Aug (EFE) — The intelligence services of the Uruguayan Police are investing an after-dark foray into the Syrian consulate in Montevideo, where, after an inspection of the consulate's archive, it is believed that an espionage operation was carried out. The incident, which occurred two days ago, was made known today, 17 August, through statements made by neighbors of the consulate, which is located in the residential neighborhood of Pocitos.

Two Montevideo newspapers today published a report on the incident and they have related it to the activities of Israeli and U.S. intelligence services following the anti-Jewish attack on 18 July in Buenos Aires. The perpetrators entered the Syrian consulate clandestinely using a key, which is used in the entire building, to open the door to the street and then forced the lock of the office. Police sources do not rule out the possibility that they were common criminals who stole $400 in cash and a check.

Some diplomatic sources have not attached much importance to the incident; others indicate that an agenda with a series of addresses and telephone numbers and a list of vehicles that belong to the consulate and its employees have disappeared.

Since the attack in Buenos Aires, which cost some 100 lives, the Uruguayan security services have been placed on alert after the warning that new attacks could be made against Israeli organizations in the area. In Uruguay, where some 50,000 Jews live, no one can park in front of synagogues or social and diplomatic premises. Defense Ministry sources have confirmed that a special operational commando has also been created.

Interior Minister Angel Maria Gianola and Defense Minister Daniel Hugo Martins have indicated that the region's security forces are in contact and they are exchanging information with the CIA and the Mosad to prevent possible attacks in the Southern Cone.

Foreign Intelligence Said Involved

PY1908031994 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2324 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Montevideo, 18 Aug (TELAM-SNI)—A morning newspaper reported today that the Uruguayan intelligence services are handling the hypothesis that the incident that occurred in the Syrian consulate in Montevideo was carried out by foreign espionage agencies. The independent newspaper EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO of Montevideo reported that "the incident occurred after a series of contacts between the local intelligence services and the CIA." The contacts were made following the terrorist attack against the premises of the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] on 18 July in Buenos Aires. The newspaper cites police and Army sources.

On 13 August [date as received] unknown persons entered, using the right keys, the Syrian consulate, located in an apartment building in the residential neighborhood of Pocitos. The incident, which only became known on 17 August, was downplayed by Interior Minister Angel Maria Giancia, who said that "there is nothing very striking in said crime," but he did infer that "he had confidential information."

Syrian Consul Fajri Niffuri [name as received] said that "$450 in cash and several bottles of beverages" were taken, and he indicated that "the archives and cupboard were broken into and that all the commercial and consular documents were scattered over the floor." Niffuri confirmed "that the documents, which were written in Arabic, were thoroughly revised, and that an agenda with addresses, telephone numbers, and a list of the vehicles that belong to the consulate and employees had also disappeared."

At the level of Uruguayan intelligence services, it has not been rejected that the theft was a "cover" the alleged thieves used to carry out their real mission.

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The opposition newspaper LA REPUBLICA of Montevideo reported today on its front page that 12 persons from the Israeli intelligence services have been secretly operating in the country since last week. Citing diplomatic sources, LA REPUBLICA highlights the fact that the Israeli agents are being coordinated by the Mosad. The newspaper maintains that these agents operate in three groups, and it reports that they were sent to Uruguay to carry out intelligence tasks and other actions linked to the presence in Uruguay of Islamic fundamentalist cells. According to the Uruguayan morning newspaper, three experts in counterintelligence operations who arrived in Montevideo from Buenos Aires are to be found among the agents. These experts were part of the rescue group that Israel sent to Argentina directly after the attack against the AMIA premises.

The Israeli agents depend directly on Mosad's base in the city of Sao Paulo, Brazil. They are now lodged in private homes after having been lodged in Montevideo hotels. LA REPUBLICA also highlights the fact that the activities of these agents is centered in Montevideo, but they also operate in other areas of the country, especially along the border with Brazil. The information published by LA REPUBLICA was made known after Defense Minister Daniel Hugo Martins stated that "foreign intelligence services are not operating officially in Uruguay. This notwithstanding, Martins did not reject the fact that they could be operating unofficially.

Suriname

Haitian Refugees on Strike, Demand Asylum

FL1708125794 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 16 Aug 94

[From the "Caribbean Evening News" program]

[Text] Police in Suriname have arrested seven Haitian refugees. The Haitians, who are on strike, were disturbing the peace. They have taken positions opposite the National Assembly building. The Haitian refugees are part of a group of 60 who were taken in by Suriname in 1992. They want the status of refugee to be dropped and demand political asylum. Marian Rheidwald tells us more:

[Begin recording] [Rheidwald; shouting heard in the background] The Haitian refugees insist the UNHCR has sent forth money to Suriname to provide for them. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs denies this allegation. According to the Migration Institute, it was agreed with the UN high commissioner that the Haitians would be put to work in order to provide for themselves. Some of them are working at the state banana company, but others demand to be looked after by the government. Last week, they took posts opposite the National Assembly.

[Unidentified speaker] I leave my country for political reasons, eh? Politic reasons. Not for the problems economic I leaving my country. We [words indistinct] for Haiti. When I see too much problem, the government not can help because although, you know [words indistinct] refugee [words indistinct] what you are.

[Rheidwald] So, what do you want now?

[Unidentified speaker] Well, what do you want? I'd rather...[pauses] We need...[pauses] I seek political. I don't want stay anymore here, in Suriname, because I find too much problem in this country.

[Rheidwald; shouting heard in the background] Last week, the police removed some antigovernment signs the refugees were carrying and summoned them to leave the area. The group, however, refused to do so. One of the Haitians, (?purporting) to be a soldier, threatened to burn down buildings at the Plazenstraat, where most of the government buildings are seated. The group was arrested yesterday. [video shows about 12 men waving their arms and shouting underneath trees standing in front of several large, white buildings and handwritten signs which read: "UNHCR Honger! Hungry" and "UNHCR You Promised a Lot. Our Live Been Hell Sinds We Were Brought Here and Still Nothing Has Happened."] [end recording]

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